Manitoba Conservation

Conservation Manitoba

Annual Report 2009-2010

Rapport annuel 2009-2010

Manitoba

MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

The Honourable Philip S. Lee, C.M., O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Government House
Winnipeg MB R3C 1S4

Your Honour:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

The report details the Department's many accomplishments and activities as we fulfill our mandate of protecting the environment while sustaining and conserving the abundant natural resources we enjoy as Manitobans.

The Department serves Manitobans and its visitors throughout our vast province and within our diverse ecosystems. We work together with the public to meet the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development.

The staff of Manitoba Conservation is dedicated to providing effective services in our parks, communities and rural and northern areas and I hope the detailed information contained in this Annual Report sheds some light on the results of our programming and the many important related activities that take place on an ongoing basis around the Province.

Respectfully submitted,

W Blaikie

Bill Blaikie
Minister of Conservation

Manitoba

Deputy Minister of
Conservation

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada
R3C 0V8

The Honourable Bill Blaikie
Minister of Conservation
330 Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010.

The Department is committed to delivering quality programs and services to protect our environment and manage natural resources in a sustainable way, while considering various community interests. The Annual Report provides an overview of the various programs and activities carried out in the 2009/10 fiscal year, highlighting key results and accomplishments that include:

- Enhancements under the Provincial Camping Initiative continued and park visitations exceeded 5.4 million visitors with campsite reservations of just over 62,000, an increase of 6,700 over 2008 and an increase of 25,000 over 2005, the year before the Parks Reservation Service was implemented.

- Through the Trees for Tomorrow program, the province and its partners will plant five million trees over five years. The program is part of Manitoba's Beyond Kyoto Climate Change initiative and by the end of 2009/10, 1.06 million trees, mostly conifers and hybrid poplars, had been planted.

- New protected areas were established in southern Manitoba (agro-Manitoba), in the Manitoba Lowlands in southeast Manitoba, and in the Hudson Bay Lowlands. Work continued in other priority areas, including the Saskatchewan River Delta, the Arctic Tundra, the Northern Transition Forest and a number of smaller sites proposed as ecological reserves.

- Amendments to *The Forest Act* received Royal Assent by the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. Major amendments made to the Act include changes to improve the department's ability to track timber harvesting and movement, increased enforcement abilities, stronger penalties and restrictions on commercial logging in all provincial parks, except Duck Mountain.

- *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act* received royal assent on June 11, 2009.

- Ten Community Traditional Area Land Use Plan (TALUP) Coordinators were trained to document and map First Nation traditional knowledge (TK) at the community level, through interviews with elders, trappers and other community land users.

- Green Manitoba administered the implementation of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) Levy program, a new levy on waste disposed in Manitoba landfills beginning July 2009.

I am pleased to report on our Department's accomplishments in the stewardship of Manitoba's resources for current and future generations. Many more highlights and details of the Department's operations and results for 2009/10 are contained in the attached report.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Meier
Deputy Minister

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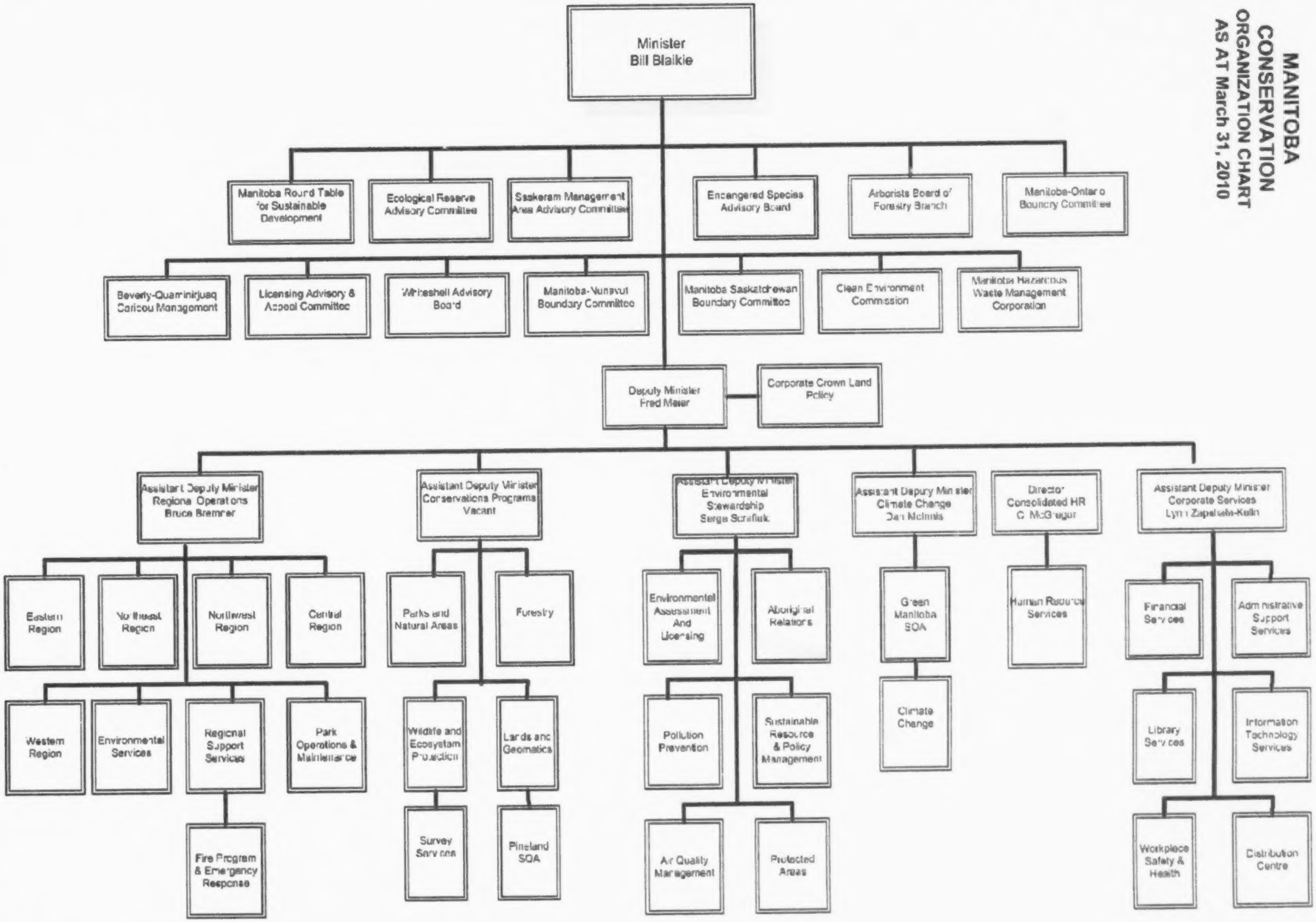
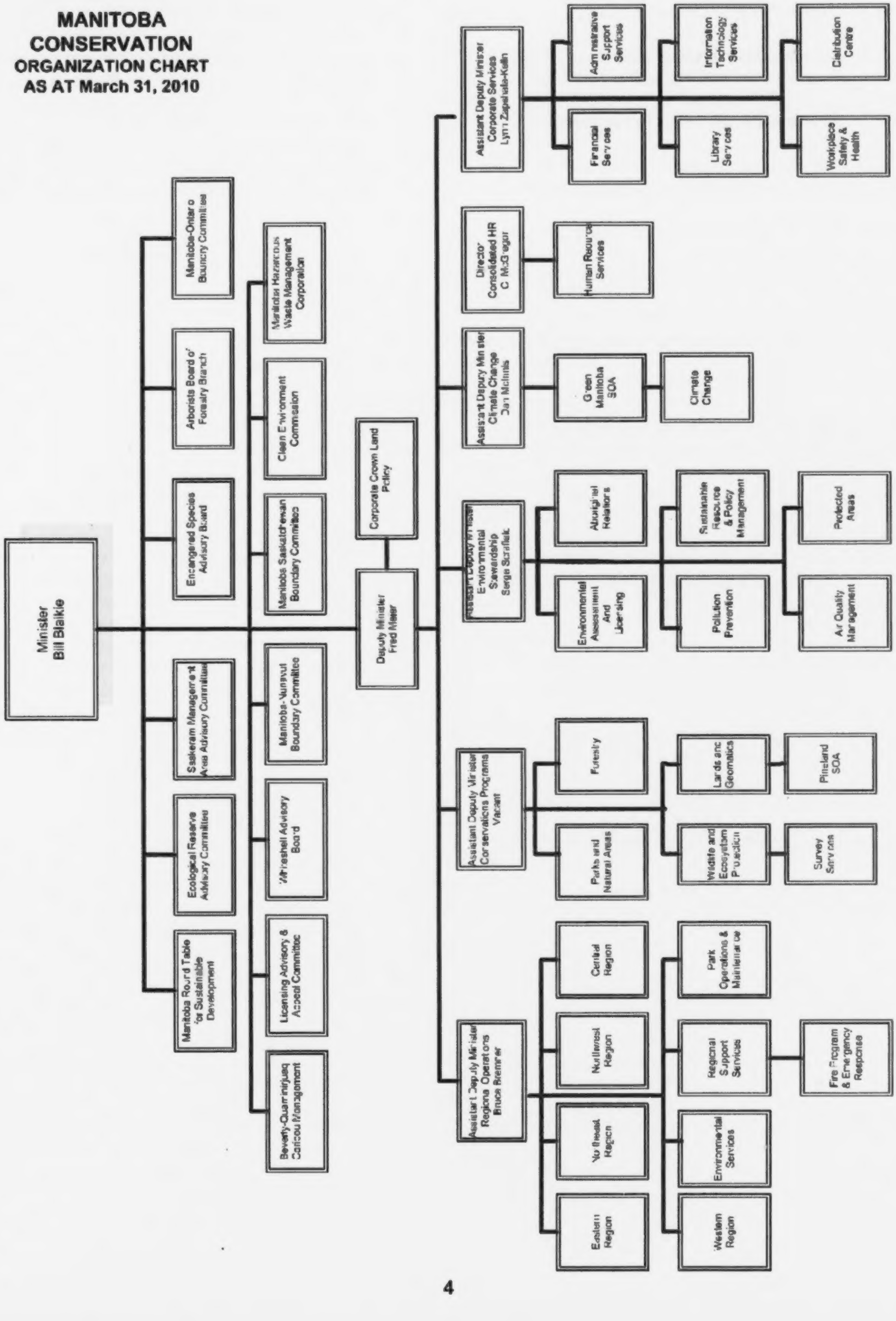
MANITOBA CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION CHART
AS AT March 31, 2010


Minister
Bill Blaikie
Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development
Ecological Reserve Advisory Committee
Saskeram Management Area Advisory Committee
Endangered Species Advisory Board
Arborists Board of Forestry Branch
Manitoba-Ontario Boundary Committee
Beverly-Quaminirjuaq Caribou Management
Licensing Advisory & Appeal Committee
Whiteshell Advisory Board
Manitoba-Nunavut Boundary Committee
Manitoba Saskatchewan Boundary Committee
Clean Environment Commission
Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation
Deputy Minister
Fred Meier
Corporate Crown Land Policy
Assistant Deputy Minister
Regional Operations
Bruce Bremner
Eastern Region
Northeast Region
Northwest Region
Central Region
Western Region
Environmental Services
Regional Support Services
Park Operations & Maintenance
Fire Program & Emergency Response
Assistant Deputy Minister
Conservations Programs
Vacant
Parks and Natural Areas
Forestry
Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection
Lands and Geomatics
Survey Services
Pineland SOA
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship
Serge Scrafiuk
Environmental Assessment And Licensing
Aboriginal Relations
Pollution Prevention
Sustainable Resource & Policy Management
Air Quality Management
Protected Areas
Assistant Deputy Minister
Climate Change
Dan McInnis
Green Manitoba SOA
Climate Change
Director
Consolidated HR
C. McGregor
Human Resource Services
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate Services
Lynn Zapshala-Kelln
Financial Services
Administrative Support Services
Library Services
Information Technology Services
Workplace Safety & Health
Distribution Centre

MANITOBA CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION CHART AS AT March 31, 2010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Corporate Crown Land Policy
Deputy Minister
Fred Meier
Assistant Deputy Minister Corporate Services Lynn Zapshala-Kelin
Administrative Support Services
Financial Services
Information Technology Services
Library Services
Distribution Centre
Workplace Safety & Health
Director Consolidated HR C McGregor
Human Resource Services
Assistant Deputy Minister Climate Change Dan McInnis
Green Manitoba SOA
Climate Change
Assistant Deputy Minister Environmental Stewardship Serge Scrafield
Aboriginal Relations
Environmental Assessment And Licensing
Sustainable Resource & Policy Management
Pollution Prevention
Protected Areas
Air Quality Management
Assistant Deputy Minister Conservations Programs Vacant
Forestry
Parks and Natural Areas
Lands and Geomatics
Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection
Pineland SOA
Survey Services
Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations Bruce Bremner
Central Region
Northwest Region
Northeast Region
Eastern Region
Park Operations & Maintenance
Regional Support Services
Environmental Services
Western Region
Fire Program & Emergency Response

HIGHLIGHTS

Corporate Services

The Conservation and Environment Library supports access to print and electronic specialized information resources for Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Environment Canada in Winnipeg, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and the public.

In the 2009/10 year, the library responded to over 4,000 requests for information both from staff and the public, and over 782 items were added to the physical collection.

The Canadamapsales.com website became operational on June 12, 2009. In the first 9 months of operation the site generated over $25,000.00 in sales, and 448 orders were processed. Orders were received from across North America and internationally from Switzerland, Japan and France.

Established the role of Supportive Employment Officer whose primary responsibility is to monitor and manage employee Workers Compensation claims and coordinate employee return to work programs and follow-up. Secondary responsibilities are medical accommodation and long term disability follow-up, and the validation of claims. The establishment of this role has substantially reduced the costs to the Department associated with compensation claims and has supported work placements for various accommodation and return to work initiatives.

Regional Services

A three-year collaring and genetics study was initiated by Manitoba Conservation in February 2010 in the Pen Island and Cape Churchill caribou ranges. Iridium collars were placed on 19 female caribou between the two ranges to determine current seasonal range use and identify important life requisite areas including calving and post-calving areas and migration corridors.

A pair of Piping Plovers nested on Gimli Beach for the first time since monitoring of these endangered shorebirds was initiated in the 1980's. Three chicks and parents were monitored by Manitoba Conservation staff and volunteer guardians until fledging. The Gimli plovers represented one of only four pairs known to nest in Manitoba last year and almost half of the total chick production.

Regional staff were involved with land use planning activities with the four communities involved with the World Heritage Site nomination process; Poplar River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Bloodvein River First Nations.

Environmental Services

Manure Management Plans (MMP) are an effective tool for ensuring the sustainability of livestock production by requiring prior-to-spreading calculation of the rate of manure application that is agronomic ally appropriate and environmentally sound. 515 MMP were processed and registered for 2009 crop year. The department conducted audits on 5% of the plans.

Parks & Natural Areas

Park visitation exceeded 5.4 million visitors with campsite reservations of just over 62,000, an increase of 6,700 over 2008 and an increase of 25,000 over 2005, the year before the Parks Reservation Service was implemented.

Enhancements under the Provincial Camping Initiative continued. Most notable was the continuation of construction of a 65 unit campground expansion at Wellman Lake campground in Duck Mountain Provincial Park, the initiation of construction work a new fully-serviced campground at Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park and the expansion of yurts to Stephenfield and Camp Morton Provincial Parks.

The Passport to Adventures program was launched. It encourages new and current park visitors to visit different provincial parks in nine of the 12 natural regions that make up the province of Manitoba.

The Beach Safety program made over 11,000 contacts with beach visitors at three provincial parks during the summer of 2009. Half of these contacts related to public education of parental supervision responsibilities. Public inquiries and injury prevention activities comprised a majority of remaining contacts. Five water rescues were performed.

Forestry

Through the Trees for Tomorrow program, the province and its partners will plant five million trees over five years. The program, which is part of Manitoba's Beyond Kyoto Climate Change initiative, started in April 2008, and will be completed in 2012. By the end of 2009/10, 1.06 million trees – mostly conifers and hybrid poplars, had been planted with another 2.0 million scheduled to be planted in 2010/11. A total of 342,132 hybrid poplar and 453,626 conifers were either planted or given away in 2009.

An assessment of carbon storage within peatland ecosystems across the province began with collaboration and assistance from the Canadian Forest Service. The analysis will provide standardized baseline information regarding Manitoba peatland ecosystems for consideration in climate change research and management planning. The assessment is expected to be completed in 2010.

A $1.2 million community-based timber volume sampling survey for a portion of the Highrock forest section was initiated. The program directs funds to The Pas, a community impacted by the economic downturn, to hire displaced forestry workers and First Nation communities to deliver a two-year volume sampling survey as part of the provincial inventory process. The program provides training to participating individuals and enhances the community's capacity to become engaged in sustainable resource planning and development discussions. The field survey and sampling commenced in March 2010.

Protected Areas Initiative

New protected areas were established in southern Manitoba (agro-Manitoba), in the Manitoba Lowlands in southeast Manitoba (Natural Region 5c), and in the Hudson Bay Lowlands (Natural Regions 2b and 3). In addition, Chitek Lake and Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserves were renewed until September 2014. Work continued in other priority areas, including the Saskatchewan River Delta (Natural Region 5a), the Arctic Tundra (Natural Region 2a), the Northern Transition Forest (Natural Regions 1a and 1b) and a number of smaller sites proposed as ecological reserves. Most of these activities involve sites within the boreal region.

The Protected Areas Initiative continued to work closely with conservation agencies, such as Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Ducks Unlimited Canada, to advance protection efforts in southern Manitoba where much of the land is privately owned. The province committed $7.0 million over the next five years to support the NCC Natural Areas Conservation Program to acquire and preserve ecologically significant lands in 8 targeted priority areas in southern Manitoba.

The Protected Areas Initiative also identified Manitoba's marine protected areas for the national Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System, which reports to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

Butterfly Species at Risk - Research and monitoring activities in cooperation with the University of Winnipeg continued at the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. Graduate student research on the life history and biology of the Poweshiek Skipper continued. Determination of the vegetative and physical characteristics of preferred sites and an analysis of movement patterns between preferred sites will improve management strategies for species in the preserve.

Problem Predator Removal Services Program was provided to Manitoba agriculture producers and property owners through an agreement with the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). The program provided for a licensed trapper to action a predator claim (primarily coyotes and wolves) by a producer through Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation (MASC). A total of 76 MASC claims were dealt with in 2009/10 and 43 wolves, 308 coyotes and 14 foxes were removed.

Mitigation for impact to wetlands as a result of Provincial highway construction was accomplished by delivery of a pilot project in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Area through a cooperative agreement with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. Wetland habitat reclamation and habitat securement projects were undertaken in the Western Region of the Province to offset impacts as a result of the twinning of PTH 1 to the Saskatchewan border and other highway projects in the NAWMP area. Other habitat mitigation works included a project with the Rural Municipalities of Riverside and Strathcona to facilitate construction of a sewage lagoon.

The Manitoba Volunteer Nocturnal Owl Survey had another successful year with 92 volunteers surveying 77 routes covering 1,237 kilometres of roads and trails. Surveyors detected 204 owls and on average, one owl was detected every six kilometres. The two most abundant species detected were the Northern Saw-whet Owl and the Great Horned Owl. The detection rates (number per kilometre) for most owl species decreased from 2008. Manitoba's provincial bird, the Great Gray Owl, increased.

Pollution Prevention

Multi-Material Recycling - In September 2009, Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) received ministerial approval for a new Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Program.

Air Quality - Assisted Environment/Health Canada in the successful launch of the near real-time Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) for Winnipeg in June 2009 and its continuing release. See http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/airquality/aq-health/ for more information.

Tire Recycling - Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM) is a not-for-profit industry association formed as a stewardship agency to represent the tire retailers of Manitoba who manage a province-wide scrap tire recycling program. TSM operates under the authority of the *Tire Stewardship Regulation, 2008* and a letter of approval from the Minister of Conservation. More information on TSM is available at: www.tirestewardshipmb.ca

Used Oil Recycling - Oil recovery remained steady at 12.5 Million Liters or 70% of the estimated amount recoverable, while filter recovery decreased slightly to 1.61 million filters, or 77% of sales. A total of 232,000 kgs of oil containers were recovered, for a 29% recovery rate. Further information on MARRC is available at: www.usedoilrecycling.com

Environmental Assessment and Licensing

Adverse effects to the environment and public health from pesticide use were minimized through appropriate permit specifications, limits, terms and conditions. Complaints were followed up through compliance inspections and field visits. Liaison with the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency ensured that only approved products were permitted and used in Manitoba. The branch continued a review of government policy in the use of cosmetic pesticides which began during the 2008/09 fiscal year.

Climate Change Initiatives

The department supported Manitoba's participation in the 2010 Climate Leader's Summit held at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Green Manitoba

Green Manitoba (GM) was created as a Special Operating Agency (SOA) effective April 1, 2006. In its fourth year of operations GM was moved to the Department of Conservation from the Department of

Science, Technology, Energy and Mines. Since its inception, Green Manitoba has served as a service delivery agent for government departments and a wide range of public and private sector organizations to help create a greener and cleaner Manitoba. As an SOA, Green Manitoba issues its own Business Plan and Annual Report with information on its mandate, activities and results. Copies of these reports can be obtained on Green Manitoba's website: www.greenmanitoba.ca

Sustainable Resource and Policy Management

Legislation:

The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act received royal assent on June 11, 2009.

The *Household Hazardous Material and Prescribed Material Stewardship Regulation (16/2010)* and the *Electrical and Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulation (17/2010)* under *The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act* were registered on February 3, 2010.

Sustainable Development Implementation:

The Manitoba Round Table awarded Sustainable Development Scholarships to two students in Manitoba; one for graduate research on reclaiming phosphate as a usable fertilizer from hog lagoons, the other for undergraduate studies and personal efforts that reflect a commitment to the principles of sustainable development.

The Manitoba Round Table awarded the 2009 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards. Among the 8 winners was Bison Transport Inc who received the Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability Award for their creative approaches to improving fuel efficiency and reducing the environmental impacts of freight transport.

Aboriginal Relations

Participated as members of the Crown Consultation Teams and the Crown Consultation Steering Committees in Crown Consultation processes with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by government decisions.

Established and implemented the *Speakers Bureau Workshop Series* to provide a forum for Department staff to hear presentation on the current issues surrounding First Nation and Aboriginal people. The series is designed to provide an opportunity for Department staff to be informed and understand the history of the various issues.

Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin

Ten Community Traditional Area Land Use Plan (TALUP) Coordinators were trained to document and map First Nation traditional knowledge (TK) at the community level, through interviews with elders, trappers and other community land users.

FAITS SAILLANTS

Services généraux

La Bibliothèque de l'environnement et de la conservation soutient l'accès à des ressources d'information spécialisées, en format imprimé et électronique, pour Conservation Manitoba, Gestion des ressources hydriques Manitoba, Environnement Canada à Winnipeg, le Conseil canadien des ministres de l'environnement et le public.

Au cours de l'exercice 2009-2010, la bibliothèque a répondu à plus de 4 000 demandes de renseignements du personnel et du public et a enrichi sa collection matérielle de plus de 782 articles.

Le site Web ventedecartesduCanada.com est entré en service le 12 juin 2009. Au cours des neuf premiers mois, le site a réalisé plus de 25 000 $ de ventes et a traité 448 commandes provenant de toute l'Amérique du Nord ainsi que de la Suisse, du Japon et de la France.

Établissement du rôle d'agent de soutien du personnel dont la principale responsabilité est de surveiller et de gérer les demandes d'indemnisation des employés auprès de la Commission des accidents du travail ainsi que de coordonner les programmes de retour au travail des employés et d'en assurer le suivi. Les responsabilités secondaires comprennent les adaptations médicales, le suivi des employés en invalidité de longue durée et la validation des demandes d'indemnisation. L'établissement de ce rôle a permis au ministère de réduire considérablement les coûts associés aux demandes d'indemnisation et de faciliter des placements en fonction de diverses adaptations ainsi que dest initiatives de retour au travail.

Services régionaux

En février 2010, Conservation Manitoba a entrepris une étude génétique de trois ans comprenant la pose de colliers d'iridium sur 19 caribous femelles dans les aires de répartition de Pen Island et de Cape Churchill. L'objectif est de déterminer les répartitions saisonnières actuelles et de répertorier des aires importantes nécessaires à la survie, y compris des aires de mise bas et d'élevage ainsi que des couloirs de migration.

Un couple de pluviers siffleurs a niché à Gimli Beach pour la première fois depuis que l'on surveille ces oiseaux de rivage en voie de disparition, c'est-à-dire depuis les années 1980. Du personnel de Conservation Manitoba et des bénévoles ont surveillé les parents et leurs trois oisillons jusqu'au premier envol de ceux-ci. Les pluviers de Gimli sont l'un des quatre seuls couples connus de cette espèce qui ont niché au Manitoba l'année dernière, et leurs oisillons représentent près de la moitié de toutes les naissances.

Des membres du personnel régional ont participé à des activités d'aménagement du territoire avec les quatre collectivités concernées par le processus de nomination en tant que site du patrimoine mondial, soit les Premières nations de Poplar River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi et Bloodvein River.

Services environnementaux

Les plans de gestion des déjections du bétail sont un outil efficace pour garantir la durabilité de l'industrie de l'élevage. Ils exigent que tout épandage soit précédé du calcul d'un taux d'application des déjections respectueux de l'environnement et approprié sur le plan agronomique. Au cours de l'année de récolte 2009, 515 plans de gestion des déjections du bétail ont été traités et enregistrés. Le ministère a effectué une vérification pour 5 % d'entre eux.

Parcs et réserves naturelles

Les parcs ont accueilli plus de 5,4 millions de visiteurs et ont enregistré un peu plus de 62 000 réservations d'emplacements de camping, soit une augmentation de 6 700 par rapport à 2008 et de 25 000 par rapport à 2005, année précédant la mise en place du Service de réservation des parcs.

On a continué à faire des améliorations en vertu de l'initiative provinciale de développement des emplacements de camping. Les points saillants étaient la poursuite des travaux d'agrandissement du terrain de camping de Wellman Lake, dans le parc provincial de Duck Mountain (65 unités supplémentaires), le début de la construction d'un terrain de camping entièrement aménagé dans le parc provincial de Winnipeg Beach, et l'installation de yourtes dans les parcs provinciaux de Stephenfield et de Camp Morton.

Le programme Passeport pour l'aventure a été lancé. Il encourage les visiteurs actuels et les nouveaux visiteurs à explorer divers parcs provinciaux dans neuf des 12 régions naturelles du Manitoba.

Le personnel du Programme de sécurité à la plage s'est mis en rapport avec plus de 11 000 personnes ayant fréquenté des plages dans trois parcs provinciaux au cours de l'été 2009. La moitié des interventions visaient à sensibiliser le public aux responsabilités parentales en matière de surveillance. Le reste des interventions a essentiellement consisté à répondre aux demandes du public et à mener des activités de prévention des blessures. Cinq sauvetages nautiques ont eu lieu.

Forêts

Dans le cadre du programme Des arbres pour l'avenir, la Province et ses partenaires planteront cinq millions d'arbres au cours d'une période de cinq ans. Le programme, qui fait partie de l'initiative du Manitoba « Au-delà de Kyoto », relative au changement climatique, a commencé en avril 2008 et se terminera en 2012. À la fin de l'exercice 2009-2010, 1,06 millions d'arbres – surtout des résineux et des peupliers hybrides – avaient été plantés, et deux autres millions devraient l'être pendant l'exercice 2010-2011. Un total de 342 132 peupliers hybrides et de 453 626 résineux ont été plantés ou donnés en 2009.

Le ministère a entrepris une évaluation de la séquestration de carbone dans les écosystèmes de tourbière à l'échelle provinciale, en collaboration avec le ministère canadien des Forêts et avec l'aide de celui-ci. Cette analyse fournira des renseignements de base normalisés concernant les écosystèmes de tourbière du Manitoba, aux fins de recherche sur le changement climatique et de planification de la gestion à ce sujet. L'évaluation devrait être terminée en 2010.

Le ministère a lancé une étude d'échantillonnage du volume ligneux dans une partie de la section forestière de Highrock. Ce programme communautaire affecte 1,2 million de dollars à la collectivité du Pas, laquelle a subi les contrecoups du ralentissement économique, afin que l'on embauche des travailleurs forestiers déplacés et des membres de collectivités autochtones pour effectuer une étude d'échantillonnage du volume d'une durée de deux ans, s'inscrivant dans le cadre du processus d'inventaire de la Province. Le programme assure la formation des participants et améliore la capacité de la communauté à participer à des discussions sur la planification et le développement des ressources durables. L'étude et l'échantillonnage sur le terrain ont commencé en mars 2010.

Initiative des zones protégées

De nouvelles zones protégées ont été créées dans le sud du Manitoba (région agricole du Manitoba), dans les basses-terres du sud-est du Manitoba (région naturelle 5c) et dans les basses-terres de la baie d'Hudson (régions naturelles 2b et 3). De plus, on a renouvelé jusqu'en septembre 2014 les réserves aux fins de création d'un parc de Chitek Lake et des rivières Poplar et Nanowin. Les travaux se sont poursuivis dans d'autres zones prioritaires, y compris le delta de la rivière Saskatchewan (région naturelle 5a), la toundra arctique (région naturelle 2a), la forêt de transition boréale (régions naturelles 1a et 1b) et plusieurs sites de plus petite taille que l'on propose de désigner en tant que réserves écologiques. La plupart de ces activités concernent des sites en région boréale.

Les responsables de l'Initiative des zones protégées ont continué de travailler en étroite collaboration avec des organismes de conservation, tels que Conservation de la nature Canada et Canards Illimités Canada, afin d'améliorer les mesures de protection dans le sud du Manitoba, où une grande partie des terres sont privées. La Province consacrera sept millions de dollars au cours des cinq prochaines années au Programme de conservation des zones naturelles de Conservation de la nature Canada, afin d'acquérir et de préserver des terres importantes sur le plan de l'écologie, dans huit zones prioritaires ciblées du sud du Manitoba.

L'Initiative des zones protégées a également répertorié les zones maritimes protégées du Manitoba pour le système national de rapport et de suivi des aires de conservation, lequel fait rapport à l'Organisation des Nations Unies dans le cadre de la Convention sur la diversité biologique.

Protection de la faune et des écosystèmes

Espèces de papillons en voie de disparition – Les activités de recherche et de surveillance menées en collaboration avec l'Université de Winnipeg se sont poursuivies à l'aire de conservation des hautes herbes des prairies. Des étudiants de cycle supérieur ont poursuivi leurs recherches sur le cycle vital et biologique de l'hespérie de Poweshiek. En déterminant les caractéristiques végétatives et physiques des sites favoris et en analysant les caractéristiques des mouvements entre ces sites, on améliorera les stratégies de gestion des espèces dans l'aire de conservation.

Les producteurs agricoles et les propriétaires fonciers du Manitoba ont pu bénéficier des services du programme d'élimination des prédateurs grâce à une entente conclue avec la Manitoba Trappers Association. Dans le cadre de ce programme, un trappeur titulaire d'une licence intervient lorsqu'un producteur présente une demande (principalement pour des coyotes ou des loups) par l'intermédiaire de la Société des services agricoles du Manitoba. Au total, 76 demandes ont été traitées au cours de l'exercice 2009-2010, et 43 loups, 308 coyotes et 14 renards ont été capturés.

Le ministère a pris des mesures pour atténuer les effets sur les terres humides des travaux de construction routière. Ainsi, un projet pilote a été mis en œuvre dans la zone visée par le Plan nord-américain de gestion de la sauvagine, grâce à une entente de collaboration avec Infrastructure et Transports Manitoba. Des projets de remise en état des habitats humides et de protection des habitats ont été entrepris dans la région de l'Ouest pour atténuer les effets des travaux de doublement de la RPGC n° 1 jusqu'à la frontière de la Saskatchewan ainsi que d'autres travaux routiers effectués dans la zone visée par le Plan nord-américain de gestion de la sauvagine. Parmi les autres travaux d'atténuation, mentionnons un projet mis en œuvre avec les municipalités rurales de Riverside et de Strathcona pour faciliter la construction d'un étang d'eaux usées.

Une fois encore, le programme bénévole de surveillance des hiboux a connu une année très fructueuse. Un total de 92 bénévoles ont surveillé 77 trajectoires s'étendant sur 1 237 kilomètres de routes et de sentiers. Ils ont repéré 204 hiboux avec une moyenne de un hibou tous les six kilomètres. Les deux espèces les plus abondantes étaient la petite nyctale et le grand-duc d'Amérique. Le taux de repérage (nombre par kilomètre) pour la plupart des espèces de hiboux a diminué par rapport à 2008. Il a cependant augmenté pour l'oiseau emblème du Manitoba, la chouette lapone.

Prévention de la pollution

Recyclage multimatériaux – En septembre 2009, le ministère a autorisé la société Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) à mettre en œuvre un nouveau programme de gestion des emballages et des imprimés.

Qualité de l'air – Le ministère a aidé Environnement Canada et Santé Canada à lancer avec succès, en juin 2009, une cote air santé pour Winnipeg qui fournit des données presque en temps réel. Pour en savoir plus, consulter le site www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/airquality/aq-health/ (en anglais seulement).

Recyclage des pneus – Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM) est une association industrielle à but non lucratif. Elle joue le rôle d'organisme de gestion représentant les détaillants de pneus du Manitoba qui gèrent un programme provincial de recyclage des pneus de rebut. TSM fonctionne dans le cadre du *Règlement sur la gestion des pneus* de 2008 et sous réserve d'une lettre d'approbation du ministre de la Conservation. Pour en savoir plus sur TSM, consulter le site www.tirestewardshipmb.ca (en anglais seulement).

Recyclage des huiles usagées – Le volume d'huile recyclée est resté stable (12,5 millions de litres, soit 70 % de la quantité récupérable estimée), alors que le nombre de filtres récupérés a légèrement diminué (1,61 million de filtres représentant 77 % des ventes). On a récupéré 232 000 kilos de contenants d'huile, soit un taux de récupération de 29 %. Pour en savoir plus sur la Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corp. (MARRC), consulter le site www.usedoilrecycling.com.

Évaluations environnementales et licences

Le ministère a minimisé les effets sur l'environnement et la santé publique de l'utilisation des pesticides en élaborant des spécifications, des limites et des conditions appropriées pour les permis. Les plaintes ont donné lieu à des inspections de conformité et à des visites sur le terrain. Le ministère a travaillé en collaboration avec l'Agence de réglementation de la lutte antiparasitaire du gouvernement fédéral pour veiller à ce que seuls les produits approuvés soient autorisés et utilisés au Manitoba. La Division a poursuivi la révision des politiques gouvernementales sur l'usage des pesticides à des fins esthétiques, laquelle a commencé au cours de l'exercice 2008-2009.

Initiatives relatives au changement climatique

Le ministère a appuyé la participation du Manitoba au Sommet des leaders sur le climat de 2010, lequel s'est tenu lors de la 15^e^ Conférence des Parties au Protocole de Kyoto, à Copenhague, au Danemark.

Manitoba vert

Manitoba vert est un organisme de service spécial qui est entré en service le 1^er^ avril 2006. Au cours de sa quatrième année d'existence, l'organisme a été transféré du ministère de l'Innovation, de l'Énergie et des Mines à celui de la Conservation. Depuis sa création, Manitoba vert fait office d'agent de prestation de services pour les ministères et pour un large éventail d'organismes publics et privés, afin que le Manitoba soit à la fois plus écologique et plus propre. En tant qu'organisme de service spécial, Manitoba vert produit son propre plan d'activités ainsi qu'un rapport annuel contenant des renseignements sur son mandat, ses activités et ses résultats. On peut obtenir des copies de ces rapports (en anglais seulement) en visitant le site Web de Manitoba vert au www.greenmanitoba.ca.

Politique et gestion durable des ressources

Législation :

La *Loi sur l'aménagement des terres traditionnelles situées du côté est et les zones protégées spéciales* a reçu la sanction royale le 11 juin 2009.

Le *Règlement sur la gestion des produits domestiques dangereux ou prescrits* (16/2010) et le *Règlement sur la gestion du matériel électrique et électronique* (17/2010), pris en application de la *Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets*, ont été enregistrés le 3 février 2010.

Mise en œuvre du développement durable :

La Table ronde du Manitoba a accordé deux bourses d'études de développement durable à des étudiants du Manitoba : l'une pour une recherche de cycle supérieur sur la récupération, aux fins de production d'engrais, du phosphate dans les étangs d'épuration des exploitations porcines; l'autre pour des études de premier cycle et des efforts personnels traduisant un engagement envers les principes du développement durable.

La Table ronde du Manitoba a décerné huit Prix d'excellence du Manitoba pour la durabilité en 2009. Le Prix des réalisations exceptionnelles en durabilité a été attribué à la société Bison Transport Inc en raison des méthodes créatives qu'elle emploie pour réduire la consommation de carburant et atténuer les retombées environnementales du transport de marchandises.

Relations avec la communauté autochtone

En tant que membre des équipes de consultation de la Couronne et des comités directeurs de la consultation de la Couronne, le ministère a participé aux processus de consultation de la Couronne avec les personnes dont les droits ancestraux et issus de traités risquent d'être touchés par les décisions gouvernementales.

On a conçu et mis en œuvre une série d'ateliers du Bureau des conférenciers afin de fournir aux membres du personnel du ministère un endroit où ils peuvent assister à des présentations sur les questions actuelles relatives aux Premières nations et aux Autochtones. La série est conçue pour offrir au personnel du ministère la possibilité de s'informer sur différentes questions et d'en comprendre le contexte.

Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin

Dix coordonnateurs communautaires de l'aménagement foncier des territoires traditionnels ont été formés pour recueillir le savoir traditionnel des Premières nations au niveau communautaire, par l'intermédiaire d'entrevues avec des aînés, des trappeurs et d'autres utilisateurs des territoires communautaires.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Administration and Finance Division provides executive management of programs and management services, including financial, human resource, information technology, and administrative support.

Minister's Salary

The Minister's salary provides the Minister with additional compensation to which an individual appointed to Executive Council is entitled.

Table AF.1
12.1(a) Minister's Salary

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	46	1.00	46	0	
Total 12.1(a)	**46**	**1.00**	**46**	**0**	

Executive Support

This area comprises support staff in the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Conservation.

The purpose of Executive Support is to develop, implement and oversee policies and programs that are designed to attain, over the long term, the goals set in the Department's vision and mission statements; advise the Minister on matters relating to the Department; provide policy direction for departmental programs; coordinate departmental communications, activities, and initiatives; and provide administrative support for the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister.

Table AF.2
12.1(b) Executive Support

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	875	10.00	701	174	
Other Expenditures	142		179	(37)	
Total 12.1(b)	**1,017**	**10.00**	**880**	**137**	

Corporate Services

Corporate Services Division provides shared services for the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship, including: administrative; financial; safety, health and risk management; equipment warehousing; library and public information services; and information technology services. Human Resource services are also provided through a service shared with other departments.

Administrative services includes fleet vehicle coordination, office accommodation and parking administration, environmental impact file searches, records management, coordination of departmental French language services, and compliance with *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The Safety, Health and Risk Management section provides leadership, direction and support to departmental staff and senior management on compliance with recognized standards in these areas through policies, monitoring and training.

The Conservation and Environment Library supports access to print and electronic specialized information resources for Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Environment Canada in Winnipeg, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and the public. Interlibrary loans are coordinated with other Libraries and Educational Institutions. Current information related to the mandates of each partner organization is made available to staff and to the public.

The departmental warehouse is the equipment/supply storage and mobilization point for branches and the Fire Operations Centre. In emergencies, such as fire and flood, the warehouse becomes the logistical support base for all equipment.

Key Results Achieved:

In the 2009 calendar year, 102 requests for information were processed under *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

In the 2009/10 year, the library responded to over 4,000 requests for information both from staff and the public, and over 782 items were added to the physical collection.

The Department continues to implement its French Language Services Plan to reflect current operations and in keeping with the *Chartier Report* on French Language Services. Further translation of documents and the website occurred in 2009/10 as well as participation in the Bilingual Service Centres continues.

Table AF.3
12.1(c) Corporate Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	983	15.00	962	21	
Other Expenditures	1,493		1,431	62	
Total 12.1(c)	**2,476**	**15.00**	**2,393**	**83**	

Financial Services

The Financial Services Branch develops, communicates, monitors and evaluates departmental financial policies, systems, processes and procedures to ensure the effective, efficient and economical operation of departmental financial functions in compliance with requirements of the Department, Treasury Board, the Department of Finance and the Office of the Auditor General.

Key Results Achieved:

The Branch provided financial support and leadership to all branches, regions, and business units of the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship, including:

- timely completion of estimates information, detailed budget, forecast and other financial reports;
- adherence to departmental and Government policy and procedures related to financial operations;
- provision of quality financial information to departmental managers to enable proper management of programs;
- prompt and accurate payment of accounts payable;
- collection and deposit of all revenues and receipts to which the Department was entitled;
- capital asset financial planning and management;
- advice, guidance and administration related to contracts and grants;
- overall comptrollership support; and
- timely and convenient sale of angling licences to the public.

The Licensing Section managed a province-wide network of 778 private and 139 departmental licence vendors through which convenient access was provided to the public for angling, hunting, migratory waterfowl, trapping, fur dealer, park vehicle entry, camping, arborist and various other licences, permits and related information (e.g., Anglers' Guide, Hunting Guide, Trapper's Guide). For the period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, Licensing Section recorded 592,813 transactions with net revenue of $11,788,124.10. Vendor activity for the same period included 44 new appointments, 54 discontinuances, 12 suspensions, and 23 reinstatements. A total of 720 private vendors are located in rural areas.

The Public Information section provided information to the public regarding the numerous programs delivered by the Departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. This service was provided in person, by telephone, Internet and mail, including the following responses to requests for information and assistance in 2009/10:

- 35,444 direct telephone requests to the Information Officers;
- 33,332 calls were received by the automated Public Information Line, of which 10,698 were handled directly by the line;
- 72,416 in person requests;
- 1,095 requests through the Internet; and
- 4,968 information packages were mailed.

The Revenue Management section managed the collection, security, deposit and reporting of revenue for over 50 revenue streams for the Departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. The section provided assistance with the delivery of various programs including the Cottage Lot Draw, Seasonal Camping Draw and the Parks Reservation Service. The section's Winnipeg Cashier's Office handled 6,360 direct sales totaling $2,704,111 and processed over 14,100 mailed remittances from customers and departmental field offices totaling $23,784,100. Credit cards were accepted at 45 locations, of which 39 also accepted debit cards.

Table AF.4
12.1(d) Financial Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,458	28.83	1,614	(156)	
Other Expenditures	406		387	19	
Total 12.1(d)	**1,864**	**28.83**	**2,001**	**(137)**	

Human Resource Services

Staffing

- Staffing activity included 1,531 appointments including open, closed and internal competitions, direct appointments, Green Team, STEP, term extensions and departmental hires and recalls.
- Guidance and advice were provided on departmental employee staffing, which has been delegated to managers and those chairpersons approved to hire seasonal employees (approximately 80 delegates) across the province.
- Conservation undertook a comprehensive audit process of its seasonal departmental competitions delegated over the past three year period which incorporated approximately 83 audits being completed on a random basis, across the province; met with each Executive management team across the province to discuss the audit results; and rolled out instruction and training on the new Staffing Framework documentation and staffing standards. Training continues on an ongoing basis.
- Secondment and developmental opportunities were initiated.
- Acting status opportunities were encouraged for succession planning and training purposes.
- Human Resource Services were provided to Pineland Forest Nursery and Green Manitoba Eco Solutions.

Labour/Employee Relations

- Provided guidance and advice to management in the completion of 126 labour relations cases, including appropriate discipline and negotiating settlements to resolve issues before the formal grievance stage. Eighteen formal grievances and selection appeals completed.
- Delivered several "Building a Respectful Workplace" workshops to Conservation and Pineland Forest Nursery employees.
- Established the role of Supportive Employment Officer whose primary responsibility is to monitor and manage employee Workers Compensation claims and coordinate employee return to work programs and follow-up. Secondary responsibilities are medical accommodation and long term disability follow-up, and the validation of claims. The establishment of this role has substantially reduced the costs to the Department associated with compensation claims and has supported work placements for various accommodation and return to work initiatives.

Pay and Benefits

- Processed pay and benefits for more than 2,492 active and inactive staff.
- Processed T4s for approximately 1,000 Emergency Fire Fighters.
- Provided guidance and advice on pay administration issues for Conservation, Pineland Forest Nursery, Green Manitoba Eco solutions and Emergency Fire Fighters.

Employment Equity

- Employment Equity continues to be a consideration in all staffing activities.

- Participated in six Career Fairs: Rotary Career Symposium, Brandon Career Symposium, Parkland Career Fair, Dauphin, University of Winnipeg Career Fair and Summer Job Expo, Red River College Career Fair, Vision Quest Conference and Trade Show; employment equity pamphlets were distributed at each.
- Liaised with Schools and organizations to enhance awareness of employment opportunities with Conservation.
- Reviewed the designated French Language Speaking positions identified by the Department

Renewal Initiatives

- The branch supported and encouraged renewal initiatives in conjunction with the Civil Service Commission by participation in:
  - The Aboriginal Management Development Program;
  - The Public Administration Internship Program for Persons with Disabilities
  - The Career Gateway Program;
  - The Management Internship Program;
  - The Women's Leadership Program and the Leadership Development Initiative;
  - The Career Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities;
  - The Management Internship Program (MIP);
  - Initiation of a Leadership Development Initiative training through Organization and Staff Development (OSD) for Department Managers; and
  - The Leadership @ All Levels Program.

Table AF.5
Employment Equity Representation

Fiscal Year	Total employees		Male		Female		Aboriginal		Persons w. Disability		Visible Minority	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2009-2010	1688	100	1041	61.7	647	38.3	291	17.2	28	1.7	34	2

The above data, as at March 31, 2010, includes active and inactive employees of the Department of Conservation, Pineland Forest Nursery and Green Manitoba Eco Solutions.

Table AF.6
12.1(e) Human Resource Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,267	21.00	1,450	(183)	
Other Expenditures	151		185	(34)	
Total 12.1(e)	**1,418**	**21.00**	**1,635**	**(217)**	

Information Technology Services

The Information Technology (IT) Branch designs, implements and manages internal information technology services and provides expertise, including technology and business consulting, systems analysis, design, implementation, corporate database management, and development and management of a yearly department-wide information technology systems plan. Related services include business process redesign, new systems analysis, business case development, strategic and operational planning, management of contractors, and management of desktop deployment and refresh. The Branch develops and maintains the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) spatial data warehouse that provides all of government's geospatial mapping data over the internet to the general public and government agencies.

Key Results Achieved:

- The IT Branch continued its support and development enhancements to several business applications including custom web site development for the cottage lot draw program, Water Licensing application, the Environment Management System, the Vendor Accounting System, the Headquarters Enforcement System, the Big Game Management System, the License Advisory Committee System, the Canada Map Sales web site, and the water well drilling management application, and several other departmental business applications.
- Business requirements and analysis work was completed along with the development of project charters for the replacement of the current water licensing system and also for the groundwater drilling application. Business requirements development began for new Licence Management System. Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping work has continued through the multi year Federal/Provincial agreement on the creation of the National Hydrographic Network (NHN) program
- The Branch assisted in the development of enhancements to the new Parks Reservation System to expand its operational capabilities, and deployed computers in 7 additional campground offices. Significant application load testing and several software enhancements were also completed to improve customer service.
- The MLI warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS digital data and related databases and meta-data with interactive mapping tools and is available online to the general public via the Internet. The data warehouse added over 2,000 new registered users during 2009/2010.
- The Branch continued development of additional Web pages to meet the needs of the public while enhancing the departmental site and applying government-wide standards and templates.

Table AF.7
12.1(f) Information Technology Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,298	12.00	1,582	(284)	1
Other Expenditures	183		212	(29)	
Total 12.1(f)	**1,481**	**12.00**	**1,794**	**(313)**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to vacancies as a result of retirements.

Clean Environment Commission

Under *The Environment Act*, The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) provides a mechanism through which the public can participate in environmental decision making. The Commission conducts public reviews and hearings into matters of environmental concern and provides advice and recommendations to the Minister. The Commission, while reporting directly to the Minister, is independent of the Department.

The Commission issues its own Annual Report with information on its mandate and operations. Copies can be obtained from the CEC at 305 – 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8. The CEC can be contacted at 204-945-0594 or toll free at 1-800-597-3556 or by fax at 204-945-0090. The CEC's web site is www.cecmanitoba.ca

Table AF.8
12.1(g) Clean Environment Commission

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	353	3.00	313	40	
Other Expenditures	234		329	(95)	1.
Total 12.1(g)	**587**	**3.00**	**642**	**(55)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to decreased operating costs related to fewer expert consultations.

Distribution Centre

The Distribution Centre serves the public and government agencies with mapping and aerial photo products sold across Canada. The market for these products is primarily the public and outdoor recreational users throughout North America. Product lines are continually being improved and expanded to meet the needs of Map Sales clientele.

Key Results Achieved:

The Centre provided fast and efficient services to clients, printing, on demand, topographic maps for locations across Canada, including waterproof versions.

Lake depth maps for lakes in Manitoba and Ontario are continually being updated to include the Universal Transverse Mercator grids and coordinates. This information is required for our many clients who are now using hand held Global Positioning System (GPS) units. All lake depth maps are available on paper or waterproof paper.

In 2009/10, 21,327 maps were sold directly or through the 150 dealers in Manitoba, Ontario and the north central United States. The Distribution Centre maintained its ranking of third largest distributor of Topographic maps in Canada.

In 2009/10, 2,491 air photo products were produced and sold to the general public and government agencies. The Air Photo Library houses the only historic pictures of Manitoba's landscape dating back to the 1920s and holds approximately 1,000,000 such photos. These photos are purchased by resource planners, environmental agencies, land developers and mining companies. All photos are produced through scanning and printing of aerial photographs, technology that provides high quality products for all clients and are available in standard 10" x 10" and enlargements up to 40" x 40".

The Canadamapsales.com website became operational on June 12, 2009. In the first 9 months of operation the site generated over $25,000.00 in sales, and 448 orders were processed. Orders were received from across North America and internationally from Switzerland, Japan and France.

Table AF.9
12.1(h) Distribution Centre

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	504	9.00	477	27	
Other Expenditures	250		337	(87)	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(31)		(50)	19	
Total 12.1(h)	**723**	**9.00**	**764**	**(41)**	

Seasonal Support

Seasonal Support provides for student employment during peak periods of departmental employment.

Key Results Achieved:

The Department participated in STEP student employment programming coordinated through the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth, as well as co-op education programs offered through community colleges and universities.

Approximately 100 students were employed in support of departmental programming.

Table AF.10

12.1(i) Seasonal Support

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	197	0.00	211	(14)	
Total 12.1(i)	**197**	**0.00**	**211**	**(14)**	

REGIONAL OPERATIONS

Regional Support Services
2009/10 Objectives and Key Results Achieved

Regional field staff are given the necessary knowledge, tools and resources and are trained and certified in necessary skill sets which will result in safe, effective and professional delivery of department programs.

- Firearm qualification for 205 seasonal and full-time Resource Officers was completed by Regional Training Officers and departmental peer Firearms Instructors. Re-certification in defensive tactics was also achieved.

- Six new Natural Resource Officer Recruits attended the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy, jointly delivered by Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Manitoba in Hinton, Alberta. This was an effective and economical co-operative training event to prepare new officers across western Canada for a successful career in the field of conservation law enforcement. The 18 week academy curriculum included training in firearms, emergency driving, defensive tactics, boating, investigations, and problem wildlife.

- Ten additional Natural Resource Officers were trained by peer trainers to the internationally accepted standard FI-210 Wildfire Cause and Origin Determination, to further enable the investigation of wildfires in Manitoba. Five officers from the Office of the Fire Commissioner were also trained during this session.

- Twenty-eight seasonal Park Patrol Officers were trained at the University College of the North in The Pas to achieve enforcement certification for summer duty.

- Twenty-three Natural Resource Officers and Environment Officers were given a two day course on Interactive Leadership for Field Training.

- Training Officers attended four major high school zone career fairs to promote Manitoba Natural Resource Officers as a rewarding career choice.

- Regional Training Officers took training/certification in driving, boating, snowmobile/ATV, defensive tactics and Sig Sauer pistol maintenance.

- Natural Resource Officers were issued new dark green uniform shirts with new identification crests to enable the public to better distinguish the full-time, armed conservation enforcement officers from other uniformed government employees.

Specialized enforcement needs such as detailed investigations, covert operations, forensic lab services and canine detection are developed sufficiently to meet the needs of the department's field officers in addressing violations of resource law.

- Regional investigators assisted several districts with complex investigations primarily related to illegal harvest and use of fish and wildlife. Districts were also provided with instruction and data recording tools to enable the expansion of a significant inspection initiative involving establishments selling wild fish.

- A covert investigation relating to the illegal sale of fish in the Winnipeg area conducted during 2007 and 2008 was concluded in the courts by way of guilty pleas and resulted in $1,200 in fines.

- A covert investigation relating to illegal outfitting in rural Manitoba that was conducted in 2007 was concluded in the courts by way of guilty pleas and resulted in a total of $35,500 in fines and $1,400 in restitution.

- An investigation conducted in 2008 regarding the illegal export of fish from Manitoba to another Province was concluded in the courts by way of guilty pleas. Fines of $720 were assessed by the courts.

- An investigation initiated in 2009 relating to the illegal possession and sale of substances that could transmit chronic wasting disease resulted in two charges against a Manitoba business. The case is currently before the courts.

- An investigation initiated in 2008 relating to the illegal export of wildlife from Manitoba resulted in twenty-six charges against two individuals, which are currently before the courts. This was a joint investigation involving Manitoba Conservation, Environment Canada and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

- There were 109 human-caused wildfires investigated resulting in three prosecutions, three warnings and evidence gathered to support twenty-eight fire suppression cost recovery charge-backs. There were fifty-four fires determined to have been intentionally caused of which twenty-four were suspected to have been arson.

- The Manitoba Conservation Canine Team was used extensively throughout the province. Jake, a Belgian Malanois, worked on a variety of compliance checks and investigations of illegal fishing and hunting activities, including ten roadside check stations, nine decoy operations, twelve occurrences of searching for evidence in non-confined areas, forty-seven occurrences of searching vehicles, two occurrences of searching for suspects, one occurrence of searching for lost persons and assistance on the execution of four Manitoba Conservation search warrants. Additionally, the canine handler, as a peer instructor, provided training to officers in defensive tactics, firearms and use of force.

- The Canine Team presented a Farm Safety demonstration to the northwest Interlake schools at Alf Cuthbert School in Moosehorn, which was attended by over one hundred students. The Canine program was discussed, as well as the dogs' scenting capability, tips on how to stay safe in the woods and around their farm, and how a search dog can locate them if they become lost. Jake gave a demonstration of his searching skills.

- The dog and officer handler conducted an additional nine public education programs in schools and at public meetings throughout the Province.

The public has access to well-advertised 24-hour toll-free numbers to report forest fires and resource-law violations.

- The 24-hour toll free telephone service (1-800-782-0076), aimed at reducing the illegal harvest of fish and wildlife received 319 calls, resulting in 23 prosecutions and 6 warnings. In addition, the toll free line received 64 calls reporting forest fires.

- See Tables RO.11 and RO.12.

Recruitment and staffing of Resource Officers is conducted in such a way as to maintain high professional standards and meet the needs of the Department and the expectation of the public.

- One Regional Investigator (Natural Resource Officer) position was filled through a Canada-wide open competition filling a vacancy that could not be filled internally.

- A provincial Intelligence Analyst position was created and staffed through open competition. This position provides support to Natural Resource Officer investigations provincially and provides enhanced officer safety, intelligence-led enforcement and more thorough investigations.

- Canine program was expanded by one officer and one dog. The competition process was completed and candidate selected to start in the next fiscal year. The Manitoba Natural Resource Officers Association donated a German Shepherd for the team. This expansion will allow more support and capacity for field officers conducting compliance checks and investigations throughout the province.

- Ten Natural Resource Officers were transferred to new locations to meet operational needs and to facilitate career development.

- Five Natural Resource Officers were successful in competitive processes for vacant positions within the Division.

- Six new Natural Resource Officer recruits were hired to fill vacancies.

- Twenty-seven new Park Patrol Officers were hired from a Canada-wide competition to provide safety and security services in provincial parks for the summer months. Several positions remained vacant due to a lack of qualified applicants.

- Ten former Park Patrol Officers were promoted to seasonal Assistant Resource Officers.

Field staff, managers and executive have access to accurate and timely inspection, compliance and occurrence data to enable decision-making and informed analysis of the effectiveness of legislation and program delivery.

- See Tables RO.1 to RO.12.

- A replacement data management program for compliance and occurrence data is under development with the assistance of government information technology staff.

Sufficient liaison is maintained with other government departments, federal/provincial agencies and non- governmental organizations to maintain up-to-date and continually improving service delivery models.

- Considerable interaction with Manitoba Justice to address issues such as authorities of Resource Officers, legislative changes, proceeds of crime and the harvesting of natural resources by Aboriginal people.

- Established a relationship with Child Find Manitoba to enable field offices to assist in dissemination of material on missing children and provide increased awareness among officers and the general public.

- Worked extensively with the Fisheries Branch of Manitoba Water Stewardship on compliance issues relating to commercial fish quota management, conservation closures and rights-based food fishing.

- Met regularly with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) concerning federal and provincial enforcement and implementation of fisheries legislation.

- Worked regularly with the Wildlife Enforcement Division of Environment Canada on issues relating to wildlife export, migratory birds, guiding and Aboriginal harvesting.

- Participated in provincial law enforcement consultation as a member of the Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police and national consultation as a member of the Canadian Natural Resource Law Enforcement Chiefs Association.

- Participated in regular CISM (Criminal Intelligence Services Manitoba) meetings with other enforcement agencies in Manitoba.

- Represented Manitoba and Canada at the first ceremony to honour North American conservation enforcement officers that have lost their lives in performance of duty. The ceremony was held at the Game Warden Museum situated in the International Peace Gardens.

Hunter-killed livestock claims are evaluated and processed promptly and livestock producers are fairly compensated for animals accidentally killed by hunters.

- Hunter-Killed Livestock Program compensates livestock owners for animals deemed accidentally shot by licensed hunters during an open big game season. Claims are investigated by Natural Resource Officers and occasionally by the RCMP. This year, two claims qualified for compensation totaling $1,777. Program activity for the past ten years is illustrated in Table RO.9.

The regions and department executive are kept updated on emerging changes and issues. Strategies are prepared to handle problems and introduce new initiatives.

- New policies and directives were issued relating to enforcement activity on provincial snowmobile trails, Aboriginal rights-based harvesting and operation of the Resource Officer Honour Guard.

- Working groups have been established to address policy and legislation relating to park safety & security, dangerous feeding of wildlife, problem wildlife response and winter angling activity on the Red River.

Table RO.1
Common Violations under *The Provincial Parks Act*

Offence	**Prosecutions**	**Warnings**	**Total Offences**	**Evictions**
Cause Disturbance	76	147	223	820
Parking Violations	214	9	223	0
Disobey Officer/Sign/Permit	33	33	66	10
Camp w/o Permit/Prohibited	14	21	35	10
Unlawful Vehicle Operation	19	36	55	3
Possess Fireworks	24	14	38	3
Have Liquor Where Prohibited	30	6	36	92
Fail to Control Pet / On Beach	10	19	29	0
Fire w/o Permit/Unattended Fire	5	2	7	0
Fail to Maintain Campsite	10	7	17	0
Damage Pollute Park Property	10	3	13	0
Other	3	5	8	0
Total	**448**	**302**	**750**	**938**

Table RO.2
Common Violations under The *Wildlife Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Hunt/Trap/Guide W/O Licence / Licence Infractions	20	29	49
Hunt From or Have Loaded Firearm in Vehicle	73	1	74
Tagging / Transportation Infractions	39	30	69
Hunt Prohibited Area/Private Land W/O Permission	51	14	65
Hunt or Discharge Firearm From Road	16	1	17
Equipment Infractions	14	13	27
Night Hunting / Dangerous Hunting	3	2	5
Abandon/Waste Game	4	0	4
Bait Infractions	11	8	19
Possess Illegally Taken / Prohibited Wildlife	20	6	26
Hunt Out of Season	4	0	4
Other	1	12	13
Total	**256**	**116**	**372**

Table RO.3
Common Violations under The *Fisheries Act (Canada)*, and The *Fisheries Act (Manitoba)*

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Equipment Infractions	368	49	417
Licence Infractions	216	239	455
Exceed Limits	133	19	152
Transportation Infractions	36	58	94
Illegal Sale / Possession of Fish	13	5	18
Wastage of Fish	6	0	6
Fish During Closed Time / Closed Area	5	9	14
Live Bait Infractions	2	0	2
Other	7	1	8
Total	**786**	**380**	**1,166**

Table RO.4
Comparison of Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Migratory Birds Prosecutions 2000/01 to 2009/10

Fiscal Year	Wildlife	Fisheries	Parks	Migratory Birds
2000-01	371	610	203	8
2001-02	379	674	227	8
2002-03	213	537	195	9
2003-04	321	654	*1,523	15
2004-05	287	660	*1,219	9
2005-06	376	707	*1,634	15
2006-07	289	547	*1,559	18
2007-08	244	595	*1,537	23
2008-09	234	802	*1,636	13
2009-10	256	786	**448	9

*Includes Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported before 2003/04

** Year 1 of 2 wherein no Park Vehicle Passes were required

Table RO.5
Record of Violations Occurring 2009/10

Acts	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Criminal Code of Canada	5	0	5
Crown Lands	39	26	65
Forest	9	17	26
Fisheries (Canada)	550	186	736
Fisheries (Manitoba)	236	194	430
Highway Traffic	27	7	34
Liquor Control	428	19	447
Migratory Birds	9	7	16
Off Road Vehicle	64	33	97
Provincial Parks	448*	302	750
Resource Tourism Operators	0	1	1
Wild Animal & Plant Protection	9	7	16
Wildfires	14	14	28
Wildlife	256	116	372
Total	**2,094**	**929**	**3,023**

***Year 1 of 2 wherein no Park Vehicle Passes were required**

Total Fines: $431,262 for 2009/10

Table RO.6
Hunter and Firearm Safety Program 2000-2009

Year	Students	Total to Date	Instructors Certified
2000	2,079	134,373	5
2001	1,976	136,349	4
2002	2,191	138,540	7
2003	2,059	140,599	14
2004	2,336	142,935	24
2005	2,611	145,546	14
2006	3,032	148,578	14
2007	2,936	151,514	13
2008	3,130	154,644	13
2009	3,217	157,861	9

Table RO.7
Firearm Accidents, 1964-2008, 5-Year Averages

1964-68	44
1969-73	56
1974-78	54
1979-83	43
1984-88	26
1989-93	20
1994-98	9
1999-03	6
2004-08	4

Table RO.8
Firearm Accidents 2000-2009

Year	Accidents			Fatalities		
	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total
2000	3	0	3	0	0	0
2001	6	0	6	3	0	3
2002	2	0	2	1	0	1
2003	4	0	4	1	0	1
2004	5	1	6	1	0	1
2005	2	3	5	1	0	1
2006	3	0	3	0	0	0
2007	2	0	2	0	0	0
2008	4	0	4	3	0	3
2009	5	3	8	0	0	0

Table RO.9
Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation 2000/01 to 2009/10

Year Paid	Claims	Claims Paid	Total Paid	Average Paid
2000-01	7	4	$4,120	$1,030
2001-02	6	5	$5,034	$1,007
2002-03	9	5	$5,716	$1,143
2003-04	3	3	$2,358	$ 786
2004-05	4	1	$ 600	$ 600
2005-06	3	2	$1,100	$ 550
2006-07	2	1	$2,600	$2,600
2007-08	9	6	$3,624	$ 604
2008-09	4	2	$1,087	$ 543
2009-10	4	2	$1,777	$ 888

Table RO.10
Problem Wildlife Occurrences 2009/10

Species	Region						
	NE	NW	E	C	W	Total	% of Total
Beaver	3	3	34	144	26	210	5%
Black Bear	88	132	655	472	243	1590	36%
Polar Bear	331	0	0	0	0	331	7%
Big Game	0	1	26	38	85	150	3%
Wolf	21	3	90	48	68	230	5%
Migratory Birds	0	0	18	115	182	315	7%
Other*	14	14	241	881	479	1629	37%
Total	**457**	**153**	**1064**	**1698**	**1083**	**4455**	**100%**

***Other includes coyote, fox, racoon, skunk, etc.**

Table RO.11
T.I.P. Calls by Region 2009/10

Region	Number of Calls					Number of Prosecutions			
	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Fire	Total	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Total
Central	32	120	3	6	161	13	5	0	18
Western	8	86	0	13	107	2	0	0	2
Eastern	5	47	6	15	73	0	3	0	3
Northwest	5	6	0	11	22	0	0	0	0
Northeast	1	0	0	19	20	0	0	0	0
Total	51	259	9	64	383	15	8	0	23

Table RO.12
T.I.P. Calls by Year 2001/02 to 2009/10 (excluding Fire)

	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
Total	569	485	406	358	330	364	312	300	319
Information	18	31	19	21	10	11	6	6	25
Actioned	230	218	235	226	217	261	192	153	156
Prosecutions	40	30	37	21	37	28	18	22	23
Warnings	12	8	2	5	8	15	1	5	6

Table RO.13
12.2(a) Regional Support Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,878	38.50	2,587	291	1.
Other Expenditures	1,598		1,508	90	
Problem Wildlife Control	217		243	(26)	
Total 12.2(a)	**4,693**	**38.50**	**4,338**	**355**	

1. Over-expenditure due to increase in worker's compensation expenditures and severance pay related to retirements.

Northwest Region

The Northwest Region encompasses a diverse landscape that includes parts of the Manitoba Lowlands and Canadian Shield natural regions. The Region is dominated by boreal forest, lakes and rivers, largely in a natural state.

Mineral extraction, processing and exploration, commercial timber harvesting and processing (lumber and pulp and paper), agriculture (Manitoba's most northerly farming community), resource-based tourism (lodges and outfitting) and commercial fishing and trapping are the main industries providing economic and employment benefits in the Region. The harvesting of wild rice and of non-timber forest products also provide for some local employment. Domestic and recreational use of the Region's wildlife, fish and forest resources by the residents of the Region is also significant.

Due to the values-at-risk associated with towns and communities and with timber values, the Region's fire management and suppression program is the most significant and highest priority program delivered in the Northwest Region in terms of both employment and expenditures. It normally runs from May through September. At the same time the Region delivers services, programs and security in the Clearwater Lake, Bakers Narrows, Grass River and Wekusko Provincial Parks. The management and allocation of Crown land and resources to different, often competing, users and compliance monitoring and enforcement of Crown land and resource legislation are year round activities in the Region. Participation on co-management boards and problem wildlife are also important program activities in the Region.

The Northwest Region has a Regional Office located at The Pas and District Offices located at Cranberry Portage, Flin Flon, Snow Lake, Grand Rapids and The Pas.

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

- The Region experienced an average fire season. The Western and Northwest Fire Programs were amalgamated under the Fire Centre in The Pas. In the Northwest Region, the first human caused fire occurred on April 10th and the last fire started October 19th. There were 51 fires, of which 39 were lightning caused and 12 human caused. In the Western Region, the first fire occurred on April 30th. There were 17 fires of which 16 were human caused and 1 by lightning.
- One lightning fire near the Iskwasum campground in the Grass River Provincial Park resulted in the immediate evacuation of the campground as the fire approached rapidly. The initial attack crews in conjunction with the water bombers were able to stop the fire at the edge of the campground resulting in no loss of life or loss of personal camping equipment.

15% of anglers checked and 30% of hunters checked.

- Resource Officers checked 2094 anglers and 387 hunters for compliance.

New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.

- Resource Officers checked 135 commercial fishers and 190 commercial fishers' nets for compliance. There were 8 roadside check stations conducted in the Region.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.

- Campsite enhancement and enlargement was completed in Bay 2 of Wekusko Falls campground.
- The two suspension bridges at Wekusko Falls that had been closed due to safety concerns were refurbished and reopened to the public.
- New boat launch and docks were completed at Reed Lake in the Grass River Provincial Park.
- The final construction phase of the Stoney Point Road in Clearwater Park was completed.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Regional and District staff participated as provincial representatives on the Cedar Lake, Cormorant, and Moose Lake Resource Management Boards.
- The Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) / Manitoba Conservation Joint Management of Resources Board continued its cooperative management mandate.

Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.

- Woodland caribou research and monitoring continued throughout the Northwest Region to aid in the assessment of industrial impacts associated with the forestry, mining, and Manitoba Hydro developments. The Northwest Region Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee has forged collaborative partnerships with industry that assisted in continued work on genetic based assessments of regional herds, detailed inventory and affects monitoring of the Wuskwatim Transmission line development as well as commencement of baseline population inventories. Development of an Action Plan for the Naosap woodland caribou range that is deemed "high risk" has begun.

- The Summerberry Research Project in the Lower Saskatchewan River Delta continued with investigation into the impacts of water level manipulation on water quality, vegetation, water birds, and muskrats.

Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.

- The regional IRMT reviewed and provided comments on 24 sale, 6 lease, 12 general permit, 22 assignment, and 4 lease renewal applications.
- 111 Work Permits were issued, 21 for mining exploration, 26 for cottage lot development, 64 for miscellaneous work including; road construction, brushing, line cutting, and camps. Work permits were issued for the final clearing of the Wuskwatim Transmission line and tower installation.
- 81 Quarry Permit applications were reviewed.
- Mineral exploration activity in the Region remains high with approximately 12 exploration companies involved in drilling, soil sampling, line cutting and geological reconnaissance in the Flin Flon, Snow Lake, Moose Lake and Grand Rapids areas.
- Regional staff coordinated the planting of 894,100 trees on 522 hectares throughout the Region in areas for which the department was responsible.
- The Tolko 17 month Annual Operating Plan (AOP) was reviewed and approved. Regional forestry staff participated in the consultation process with First Nation and Aboriginal communities in the Region on the AOP and other forestry related activities.

Table RO.14

12.2(b) Northwest Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	**Actual 2009/10 $(000)**	**Estimate 2009/10 FTE**	**Estimate 2009/10 $(000)**	**Variance Over/(Under) $(000)**	**Expl. No.**
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,211	37.65	2,381	(170)	
Other Expenditures	1,137		839	298	
Total 12.2(b)	**3,348**	**37.65**	**3,220**	**128**	

Northeast Region

The Northeast Region encompasses 60% of the land area of Manitoba and is comprised primarily of vast uninterrupted tracts of boreal forest transitioning to taiga in the far north. The majority of the land base remains in its natural state, unaltered and undeveloped, and is largely inaccessible due to an extremely limited road network.

On a capita per area basis the Northeast Region is the most sparsely populated area. Mineral extraction, processing and exploration, hydro-electric generation and transmission, resource-based tourism (lodges and outfitting), and commercial fishing and trapping are the main industries generating economic and employment benefits for the Region and Province. Domestic and recreational use of the Region's wildlife, fish and forest resources by the residents of the Region is also significant.

Undertaking the Crown's Duty to Consult (Section 35) with the 20 First Nation communities and 15 Aboriginal communities located in the Northeast Region on government decisions or actions that could affect or infringe upon Treaty and Aboriginal rights is a year round priority in the Northeast Region. Due

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

- The Region experienced an average fire season. The Western and Northwest Fire Programs were amalgamated under the Fire Centre in The Pas. In the Northwest Region, the first human caused fire occurred on April 10th and the last fire started October 19th. There were 51 fires, of which 39 were lightning caused and 12 human caused. In the Western Region, the first fire occurred on April 30th. There were 17 fires of which 16 were human caused and 1 by lightning.
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Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

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- The Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) / Manitoba Conservation Joint Management of Resources Board continued its cooperative management mandate.

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Undertaking the Crown's Duty to Consult (Section 35) with the 20 First Nation communities and 15 Aboriginal communities located in the Northeast Region on government decisions or actions that could affect or infringe upon Treaty and Aboriginal rights is a year round priority in the Northeast Region. Due to the values-at-risk associated with towns and communities and with timber values, the Region's fire management and suppression program is also a priority program delivered in the Region in terms of both employment and expenditures. It normally runs from May through September. The delivery of services, programs and security at Paint Lake Provincial Park and several other provincial parks is a priority during this same time period. The management and allocation of Crown land and resources to different, often competing, users and compliance monitoring and the enforcement of Crown land and resource legislation are year round activities in the Region. Participation on co-management boards and handling problem wildlife complaints, including the high profile Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill, are also important program activities in the Region.

The Northeast Region has a Regional Office located at Thompson, District Offices located at Churchill, Gillam, Thompson, Wabowden, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Norway House, Island Lake, and Gods Lake Narrows, and sub-District Offices located at Split Lake, Nelson House, Pukatawagan, South Indian Lake, Cross Lake, and Oxford House.

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

- 2009 was a very quiet fire season for the Northeast Region with only 77 fires in total. There were 26 fires started by lightning and 51 were human caused. The Island Lake area was the only area with significant activity and this did not occur until mid September. There was a total of 746 hectares burned; 364 hectares were the result of "no action" fires.

15% of anglers checked and 30% of hunters checked.

- Natural Resource Officers checked 2134 anglers and 641 hunters for compliance.
- Natural Resource Officers checked 50 commercial fishermen for compliance.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Regional and District staff participated as provincial representatives on the Nelson House, Split Lake, York Factory, Norway House and Fox Lake Resource Management Boards, the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, the Wapisu Caribou Committee, the Northeast Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee and the Wapusk National Park Management Board.
- Regional staff participated on the department's negotiating committee towards the establishment of the Cree and the Island Lake Regional Resource Management Boards as provided for under the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Accord.
- Regional staff participated on an inter-departmental team headed by Aboriginal and Northern Affairs that is meeting with representatives of the Manitoba Denesuline (Sayisi Dene and Northlands Dene First Nations), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Kivalliq Inuit Association and Canada on the Inuit's land and wildlife harvesting claims in northern Manitoba.
- Regional staff consulted with First Nations and Aboriginal communities on Tolko's 2010/11 Forest Harvest and Renewal Plan; the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership's Crown Land, Environment Act Licence and Water Rights Licence applications for the Keeyask Infrastructure Project; Manitoba Hydro's Work Permit applications for investigative activities related to the Keeyask and Conawapa projects; and on Licencing Advisory Committee applications.

Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.

- The Polar Bear Alert Program handled a total of 60 polar bears during the 2009 season. The total of polar bear related occurrences was 326. Both the number of bears handled and occurrences were up 50% from 2008. November was again the busiest month for staff with 39% of the polar bears being captured during this month. There were no serious people/bear conflicts reported.

Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.

- Two polar bear surveys were flown in 2009. A survey was done the first week of August and a total of 101 polar bears were counted, all in very good shape. The fall coastal survey was done the second week of September and a total of 270 polar bears were recorded during this survey.

- A three-year collaring and genetics study was initiated by Manitoba Conservation in February 2010 in the Pen Island and Cape Churchill caribou ranges. Iridium collars were placed on 19 female caribou between the two ranges to determine current seasonal range use and identify important life requisite areas including calving and post-calving areas and migration corridors. Genetic samples are also being collected to determine the genetic relatedness of Pen Island and Cape Churchill caribou to each other and to barren-ground and boreal woodland caribou.

- Manitoba Conservation assisted Manitoba Hydro in deploying 73 Iridium collars on boreal woodland caribou and 22 Argos collars on wolves throughout the Bipole study area across the Northeast and Northwest regions.

Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.

- The Region reviewed and provided comments on 35 Crown Land applications, 17 Crown Land assignments, 6 Crown Land Lease renewals, 3 Crown Land Change in Use applications, 1 Crown Land development time frame extension application, 134 Casual Quarry Permit applications, 2 Environment Licence pre-screening applications, 3 Environment Act Licence applications, 26 Work Permit applications, 11 Licence Advisory Committee (LAC) applications, 7 LAC Renewal applications and 1 LAC Transfer of Operating authority application.

- 227 Timber Permits, 79 Work Permits and 331 Burning Permits were issued through District Offices and Regional Office.

Other Notable Highlights

- The Thompson Fur Table was attended by 168 trappers, and a total of $228,289 worth of fur was sold.

- Non-resident hunting continues to be an important activity in the Northeast Region with 58 lodge operators/outfitters being allocated 212 moose licenses, 745 black bear licenses and 300 caribou licenses.

- Regional staff assisted with long term re-vegetation efforts at decommissioned mine sites at Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids and Manibridge.

- Regional staff coordinated community tree plants at Thompson and Churchill. Youth from both communities participated.

- The Region's Safety Coordinator provided the following training to staff: Transportation of Dangerous Goods (126 employees); WHMIS (211 employees); and, New Employee Orientation (60 employees). In addition the Safety Coordinator organized for the following training to be delivered by certified instructors: First Aid (156 employees); ATV (27 employees); Forklift (5 employees), and arranged for the Audiometric testing for 211 employees. The Safety Coordinator developed and distributed 15 Safe Work Procedures relate to Fire Program duties.
- The Water Treatment Plant at Paint Lake Provincial Park was completed and the new treatment equipment was installed.
- Bay 3 in the main campground in Paint Lake Provincial Park was brushed to remove standing dead timber caused by a spruce budworm infestation and the resulting public safety and fire hazard it created.

Table RO.15

12.2(c) Northeast Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,855	44.38	2,766	89	
Other Expenditures	1,191		1,155	36	
Total 12.2(c)	**4,046**	**44.38**	**3,921**	**125**	

Central Region

The Central Region delivers programs and services in the following program areas: wildlife, forestry, Crown lands, provincial parks, environmental protection and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of natural resource legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Gimli and District Offices in Ashern, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Gypsumville, Hodgson, Lundar, Manitou, Portage la Prairie, Riverton, Selkirk, Winnipeg, and Winnipeg Beach.

Resource Programs

Compliance levels in excess of 95% for Public Related Complaints.

- Regional staff responded to 3320 district occurrence reports from the public related to parks operation and safety, problem wildlife and resources related complaints. In addition, staff provided representation on behalf of the department and professional advice to a large number of public, industry and interest groups on forestry, wildlife, Crown lands and other resource concerns and issues.
- Central Region staff undertook 1237 enforcement actions resulting in 650 charges, 257 warnings and 330 evictions from provincial parks. These actions were primarily in response to public complaints on regulatory resource issues as well as maintaining park safety and security for the public.

New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.

- In response to the 2009/10 Central Region Enforcement Strategy, enforcement efforts were deployed to the priorities of park safety and security, wildfire investigations and commercial and illegal use of fish and wildlife resources.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public increased complaints; in the level of visitor satisfaction within Provincial Parks.

- Park rowdyism, public safety and security remain priority issues requiring the primary attention of the region's resources. Reallocation of additional staff from out of district and out of region is required to provide adequate enforcement staff to control situations and respond to public complaints.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Regional Wildlife staff have meet with Peguis First Nation regarding wildlife management issues in their traditional area. Staff have also conducted a number of presentation to various stakeholder groups regarding problem wildlife issues
- Regional Crown Land staff continues to work with the Fisher River First Nation in a positive respectful partnership for the development of a joint cottage lot development.

Regional staff worked with Parks and Protected Areas staff in stakeholder consultation for the Fisher River Park Proposal.

Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.

- The number of problem wildlife complaints from the public increased to 1,698 occurrence reports in the region. Nuisance small animal complaints especially raccoon, skunk, coyotes and others continue to increase and cause the highest number of complaints. Over half of all problem wildlife complaints originate from urban areas and are related to nuisance animals.
- Public education and waste handling initiatives continue in the Grand Beach District to prevent black bear/human interactions. Black bear complaints nearly doubled from the previous year to 472 in the region.

Development of short and long range regional resource management plans.

- Interdepartmental regional BLOC planning Committee continues to review operational Crown land use codes to improve long term land and resource use and reduce land use conflicts.
- Integrated Resource Management Team subcommittee continues to develop a decommissioning protocol for a Ducks Unlimited project to ensure post project land use is consistent with the Wildlife Management Area land and resource objectives.

Regional concerns are considered before land is allocated.

- Operational land use codes are reviewed to ensure potential allocations and land use activities are consistent with the long term land use objectives.

Other Notable Highlights

Lands

- Completed road construction at Mill Creek and Pebblestone Beach Crown Cottage subdivisions.
- Assisted in the completion 95% decommissioning and removal of flooded cottages at Breezy Point.

Wildlife

- Narcisse and Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) continue to be a highly popular wildlife viewing areas in the region. Over 30,000 public visitors visited the snake dens in 2009 while over 200,000 visited Oak Hammock. A number of infrastructure initiatives were undertaken at Oak Hammock in 2009, including the construction of two new water bird loafing bars, repairs to water control structures and dikes, and improvements to existing information kiosks.
- A pair of Piping Plovers nested on Gimli Beach for the first time since monitoring of these endangered shorebirds was initiated in the 1980s. With the support of the Rural Municipality of Gimli, the nest was protected by a snow fence enclosure. Three chicks and parents were monitored by Manitoba Conservation staff and volunteer guardians until fledging. The Gimli plovers represented one of only four pairs known to nest in Manitoba last year and almost half of the total chick production.
- Manitoba Conservation continues to work with Skownan First Nation on the development of a management plan for the wild wood bison herd in the Chitek Lake area. This herd is part of the national recovery strategy for wood bison.

Forestry

- On Crown lands in the Central Region 1,547,000 trees were planted in the Rosenburg, Dancing Point and Spearhill Operating Areas.
- Regional staff have been doing on-going mapping, planning and consultations of timber harvest locations for the 2010 to 2015 quota period.

Parks

- As part of the Federal Infrastructure Stimulus Program and in cooperation with the Town of Winnipeg Beach, a 120 full service campground at Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park is under construction.
- As part of a modernization and enhancement of public service, the removal of underground petroleum storage tanks at Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park and Hecla Provincial Park was completed and modern environmentally approved above ground tanks and pumps were installed as per The Environment Act requirements.
- To enhance public use and facilitate a major clean up and improvement to the Birds Hill riding stables a Manure Management Plan was implemented at the stables in Birds Hill Provincial Park.
- As part of Manitoba Conservation's green plan and to enhance public services, construction was initiated on the west beach washroom at Grand Beach Provincial Park.
- In an effort to provide high quality services and employing green technology, construction commenced on a new shower building at Birds Hill Provincial Park to complement the existing campground.

- As part of a comprehensive revitalization strategy for heritage structures, re-pointing and stabilization of the stone work was undertaken at Trappist Monastery Provincial Heritage Park.

Table RO.16
12.2(d) Central Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,976	69.33	4,366	(390)	
Other Expenditures	1,635		1,748	(113)	
Total 12.2(d)	**5,611**	**69.33**	**6,114**	**(503)**	

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region is comprised of rural towns, First Nation communities, Canadian Shield boreal forest and agricultural lands. The region contains extensive tracts of natural undisturbed areas with the majority of the land not developed for human occupation. As a result, significant economic benefits are derived from natural resource based industries like forestry and from diverse recreational opportunities. Major programs administered by the region include The Environment Act, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage Onsite Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, Parks Operations and Maintenance, Forest Planning and Management, Wildlife Research and Seasonal Regulations, Crown Lands and Wild Fire Protection and Suppression.

The Eastern Region programs and public services are provided by multi-disciplined full time and seasonal staff working with the Regional Office in Lac du Bonnet, District offices in Lake Winnipeg East, Pine Falls, Rennie, Seven Sisters, Sprague, Falcon Lake, Hadashville and West Hawk Lake and Sub-District Offices at Berens River, Little Grand Rapids and Bissett. Public lands in addition to undesignated Crown land administered through these offices include l4 provincial parks, 8 provincial forests, 9 wildlife management areas and 7 ecological reserves.

2009/10 Annual Report Key Results Achieved:

Forestry

- On June 27, 2007 a severe windstorm damaged the forest in the northern areas of Whiteshell Provincial Park. The regional salvage program developed in 2007/08 was completed by the spring of 2010. Forest renewal activities including the preparation of approximately 1,200 ha. of forest land for planting and natural regeneration and the planting of approximately 820,000 seedlings was completed.

- The Eastern Region saw a decline in harvesting activity with the indefinite closure of the Tembec Mill in Pine Falls. Quota holders are seeking out replacement markets with some success.

- Eastern Regional staff continued with their involvement in various aspects of the Manitoba Model Forest Program.

Lands

- An integrated approach to land use reviews by Resource Managers representing Crown Lands, Forestry, Wildlife, Fisheries, Environment, Provincial Parks and district operations was undertaken in advance of the issuance of permits or land allocations for proposals in the region.

Parks

- Multi-year upgrade to services in the West Hawk Lake Campground continued this year with the addition of upgrades to electrical and water infrastructure and fully serviced campsites.
- A new shower building incorporating green technology was constructed at Nutimik Lake Campground.
- Work began on a North Whiteshell wastewater management strategy including preliminary investigations for design of a new truck haul disposal site and new wastewater facility for White Lake.
- A major initiative was started during the winter of 2010 to introduce green technology water saving devices in all campgrounds in the North Whiteshell.
- Construction continued on the multi-year lagoon reconstruction at West Hawk Lake. The revitalization and upgrades to the West Hawk Lake sewer system was completed.

Fire Management

- There were a total of 28 wildfires burning 97 hectares with all but 1 of these fires not human caused.

Wildlife

Boreal Woodland Caribou Program

- Manitoba Conservation continues to be committed to woodland caribou conservation. The Regional Caribou Biologist chairs the Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee which is a multi-stakeholder group that is comprised of 11 partners representing government, industry, First Nations, Natural Resource Officers, academics, communities and others.
- Fourteen additional caribou were collared during the winter of 2009/10 on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. A total of 43 caribou are collared across 5 populations on the east side of Lake Winnipeg to gather information on their status, movements and habitat use.
- Research and monitoring has focused on the Owl-Flintstone range. Projects include monitoring of calf recruitment/adult survival rates, calving/nursery habitat modeling, monitoring of effects on caribou habitat use and movements of an experimental forest harvest.
- Development of draft range action plans for two high risk ranges on the eastside of Lake Winnipeg were initiated. This follows through on a commitment made in Manitoba's Conservation and Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou to write range action plans for high risk ranges.

Compliance Levels

- Regional staff responded to 2,921 district occurrence reports related to park operations, safety and security, problem wildlife and resource related complaints.
- Park safety and security remained a priority with a focus on continuing to curb instances of rowdyism within our campgrounds.

World Heritage Site Nomination Project

- Regional staff were involved with land use planning activities with the four communities involved with the World Heritage Site nomination process: Poplar River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Bloodvein River First Nations.
- Poplar River First Nation completed its draft land use plan and steps were underway to designate its traditional territory.
- Staff worked with Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Bloodvein River First Nations to develop land use plans and zoning maps for their traditional territories as part of their involvement in the World heritage Site process.
- Open Houses have been held in the three communities to discuss the World Heritage Site nomination process and the development of their land use plans.

Table RO.17

12.2(e) Eastern Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,152	71.30	4,134	18	
Other Expenditures	996		939	57	
Total 12.2(e)	**5,148**	**71.30**	**5,073**	**75**	

Western Region

The Western Region is an extremely diverse area which encompasses a range of land based development and activities from urban centres to intensive agricultural and industrial development to remote undeveloped natural habitat. The region reaches from the American border on the south to the northern end of Lake Winnipegosis and is geographically divided in half by the Riding Mountain National Park. It was formerly two regions (South West Region and Western Region) and while functioning as one region much of the administration and management is completed by two distinct sub-regions.

The region contains 58% of the Rural Municipalities in the province and is the second most populated area of the province next to the Red River region. Agricultural land use predominates the region while the northern portion supports a significant portion of the province's forestry industry. As a result of this agricultural land use there are significant problem wildlife issues (beaver, coyote, and elk depredation). It is also home to 6 of the 7 known elk populations in the Province and attracts significant numbers of resident and aboriginal (First Nation and Métis) hunters. The region contains well known natural topographic features in the form of the Spruce Woods, Turtle, Riding, Duck and Porcupine Mountains as well as Lake Winnipegosis. In addition, Lake of the Prairies is one of the premier walleye fisheries in the province. Recreational and Commercial use of natural resources within the area are a major economic stimulus in the region. There are 21 provincial parks in the region. The region contains the majority of outfitters in the province. Virtually all the oil and gas activities in Manitoba occur in the southwest part of the Region where the majority of the listed Species at Risk occur in Manitoba. It is also the only Region with a major military base, CFB Shilo; Conservation staff are members of the Shilo Environment Advisory Committee.

All of the above use and activities require extensive administration and monitoring under the Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry, Parks, and Crown Lands, Acts and regulations and associated programs.

2009/10 Annual Report Key Results Achieved

Cost-effective and professional delivery of field services to the public.

- Over $225,458.51 in timber revenue was collected directly in the Regional Forestry Office in Swan River.
- Forestry staff initiated a biomass utilization / measurement trial with Riehl Lumber and Logging of Durban Area. This trial involves utilization of hardwood logging waste (mill residue, undersized tops, crooks, sweeps, shattered and short pieces) which is often left in bush following harvest. Reihls are marketing this biomass as hog fuel and color landscape mulch.
- Regional Forestry staff initiated a review of non-satisfactory regenerated (NSR) hardwood sites and hosted a tour with industry and forest inventory staff. This review and tour lead to renewal action on these NSR sites and establishment of a permanent sample plot program to monitor hardwood renewal over the long term.
- Natural Resource Officers made a concerted effort to follow up on any failures to turn in biological samples by hunters. The submission of biological samples by hunters to Manitoba Conservation is an integral part of the Departments Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Tuberculosis (TB) Management Plan.

% of anglers checked and % of hunters checked.

- Conducted aerial and ground surveillance for illegal baiting and feeding of wildlife in Game Hunting Areas 23/23A, 18/18A/18B/18C, around Riding Mountain National Park and Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Forest.
- Regional staff increased enforcement efforts on Lake Dauphin and its respective tributaries during the spring walleye spawn ensuring compliance of the tributary closures.
- Regional Staff continued to assist in the field delivery of the Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) implementation plan developed by the TB Task Group. This program continued with the baiting surveillance and sample compliance program.
- Natural Resource Officers conducted roadside check stations during the spring months when anglers are transporting sport fish from northern regions.
- Swan River Natural Resource Officers conducted a roadside check station to identify and ensure compliance with Big Game disease import concerns.

New initiatives to effectively reduce illegal traffic in fish and wildlife.

- Conducted aerial and ground surveillance for illegal baiting and feeding of wildlife in Game Hunting Areas 23/23A, 18/18A/18B/18C, around Riding Mountain National Park and Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Forest.
- Natural Resource Officers conducted checks of local game & fish deer head competitions and called draw elk hunters in GHA 23/23A to determine compliance with mandatory submission of wildlife disease samples.
- Regional staff with assistance from Special Investigations Unit staff initiated restaurant inspections throughout the Region in efforts to gain intelligence and address any illegal fish sales to vendors.
- Regional staff increased efforts throughout the Region to ensure the compliance with Snopass requirements on specific trails on Crown Land.
- Regional staff initiated and delivered an increased enforcement effort to ensure hunters complied with the TB/CWD biological submission requirements.
- Natural Resource officers conducted a joint investigation with the RCMP and Riding Mountain National Park regarding poisoning of wildlife. The investigation resulted in charges being laid.
- A joint investigation involving the Canadian Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Manitoba Conservation and Saskatchewan Environment resulted in charges being laid against an outfitter.

Control of park rowdyism and reduced level of related public complaints; increase in the level of visitor satisfaction within provincial parks.

- May Long Weekend Liquor Free Camping Program was delivered resulting in high level of visitor satisfaction throughout all campgrounds in the Region.
- Final phase of major campground expansions were completed for Wellman Lake in the Duck Mountain Provincial Park as well as Rivers Provincial Park in order to enhance visitor experiences and satisfaction. Wellman Lake Provincial Park has added 63 new campground sites and Rivers Provincial Park added 20 new campground sites. Both campgrounds were a welcome addition to the Western Region.

Maintenance of effective community relations particularly greater involvement, participation and co-operation of Aboriginal people in resource management, and effective liaison with organized sportsmen's and park user groups.

- Regional Forestry Staff participated with ongoing Forestry Crown Consultation process regarding LP 20 year Forestry Management Plan.
- Regional Forestry Staff completed Crown consultation process involving contact with 34 aboriginal communities regarding 2009/10 Annual Operating Plans produced by LP and Mountain Quota holders Association in the Mountain Forest Section.
- Regional Forestry Staff began Crown consultation process involving contact with aboriginal communities that may be affected by the 2010/11 Annual Operating Plans produced by LP and Mountain Quota holders Association in the Mountain Forest Section.

- Regional Forestry Staff initiated a stand tending contract with Minnissing Anishinabeh Ahyaahwin Ltd. Pine Creek First Nation in the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest.

- Regional Forestry Manager participated as the Western Region contact for Crown consultation committee regarding Bipole III.

- Forestry and Wildlife Staff assisted with delivery of natural science, education field trip for elementary school students in Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

- Regional Wildlife Staff continued moose management presentations on declining moose population with local user groups and First nations around Duck Mountain Provincial Park and Porcupine Provincial Forest. In addition, they worked with Pine Creek and Valley River to get wildlife allocations assigned to those communities for non-resident deer and bear outfitting.

- Swan River Staff continued to work closely with Swan Valley Sportfish Enhancement Inc. in fundraising and fisheries management projects.

Minimize the number of complaints related to problem wildlife.

- Districts adjacent to Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP) worked with RMNP staff in accepting a few problem black bears around the park and reintroducing them back into the park with continued monitoring of the program by park staff.

- The "Bears and Bees" project in the Ethelbert area continued. Four outfitters maintain approximately 20 electric fences around chronic bee-yard depredation sites to assist Manitoba's largest honey producer. Nuisance bear harvest is significantly reduced and no fences were breached by bears.

- A problem predator control program has been extended in co-operation with Manitoba Agricultural and Food Services Corporation and the Manitoba Trappers Association to assist cattle producers with depredation issues.

- Staff met with town council of Killarney to address deer damage complaints in the community. A questionnaire was sent to town residents and an aerial survey was flown to gather information for the development of a deer management strategy for Killarney.

- Assistance relative to wildlife and biodiversity was provided to the Little Saskatchewan River, Turtle Mountain and Upper Assiniboine River Conservation Districts in developing management plans for watersheds.

- Staff met with the RM of Glenwood to address the legalities of a coyote reduction payment to local landowners as it pertains to The Wildlife Act. Once details were resolved, the RM paid landowners $25/coyote taken on their own land in defense of their cattle (176 coyotes were taken in February/March 2010).

- Two aerial moose surveys were flown in the Western Region in 2010. The Duck Mountain moose survey showed a continued decline of moose populations from 2008 moose in 2007 to 1349 moose in 2010. The Porcupine Mountain moose survey results indicate this moose population has not declined but has stabilized at 1122 moose in 2010.

Other Key Results Achieved

- Western Region Integrated Resource Management Team completed preplan mitigation of LP Canada and Mountain Quota Holders 2010/11 Annual Operating Plans.

- Implemented proposed Timber Administration System changes and next 5 year timber sales with industry and regional staff through meetings and correspondence.
- Regional Forestry Staff assisted District Staff with delivery of Forestry Compliance objectives.
- Regional Forestry Staff completed 469 cull, defect and undersize plots, measured 19,856 timber samples at LP, SPL and Riehl Lumber mills as part of provincial scaling program.
- Measured 519 hardwood and 1,488 softwood log length samples as part of softwood log length audit.
- Measured 1,571 chipper wood samples (tree length and 5.1 m log length) for chipper wood factor determination/comparison.
- Established a White Spruce seeding trial within the budworm/timber salvage area of the Spruce Woods Provincial Forest.
- Site Prepared approximately 87 ha of non-satisfactorily regenerated area in the Mountain Forest Section in preparation for tree planting in 2010.
- Completed low impact, manual release of White Spruce seedlings on approximately 16.5 ha of mixed wood plantation in co-operation with workers from Pine Creek First Nation.
- Completed hardwood test surveys as part of Hardwood renewal standard review relating to survey timing – 8 blocks 282 plots (surveyed 5 year after harvest).
- Provided staff and equipment support to Forestry Branch on various surveys, including: Regeneration and Free to grow (FTG) surveys, Permanent Sample Plot and Growth and Yield Plot establishment and measurement.
- Peregrine falcons, a nationally endangered raptor, once again nested and raised young at the former McKenzie Seeds building in Brandon for the 15th consecutive year in 2009.
- Natural Resource Officers were successful in getting unsightly houseboats removed from Asessippi Provincial Park. Natural Resource Officers continue to investigate illegal occupation of Crown land by houseboat owners and other users.

Table RO.18

12.2(f) Western Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,139	71.01	4,285	(146)	
Other Expenditures	1,352		1,441	(89)	
Total 12.2(f)	**5,491**	**71.01**	**5,726**	**(235)**	

Park Operations and Maintenance

Details regarding Park Operations and Maintenance are included within each of the regions that deliver this program.

Table RO.19
12.2(g) Park Operations and Maintenance

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	13,874	219.32	13,708	166	
Other Expenditures	7,024		6,100	924	1.
Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(472)		(472)	0	
Total 12.2(g)	**20,426**	**219.32**	**19,336**	**1,090**	

1. Over expenditure in Other Expenditures is mainly due to implementation of a new integrated registration and trail pass system and increased operating costs.

Fire and Emergency Response Program

OBJECTIVES

To coordinate the Provincial Wildfire Program to ensure maximum utilization, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of fire suppression resources to minimize human, property and resource losses.

- The fire season of 2009 can be classified as "well below average" with a total of 184 fires burning a total of 2,972 hectares.
- This is the lowest number of fires since 1959 at (155 total fires) and the lowest number of hectares since 1966 at (2,491 total hectares).
- Cold, wet weather during the spring continued into the summer season. Green up conditions were just beginning in the north the week of June 15. Drier conditions and a large lightning storm resulted in the most fire activity experienced for the entire season.
- The warmest weather was experienced during the last week of August and first three weeks of September. This extended the fire season somewhat in northern areas of the province. Cool weather followed with the first southern snowfall occurring on October 9.
- Flood forecasts were issued on many occasions throughout the entire fire season for various areas throughout the southern half of the province.
- As a result of the quiet fire season, Manitoba was able to assist British Columbia on several equipment and personnel deployments through Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center (CIFFC) Mutual Aid Agreement.

To minimize the number of human caused fire starts through prevention and education.

As reported by the regions in weekly reports, the following statistics apply to human caused wildfires:

- 117 human caused fires reported
- 109 fires investigated, 23 by fire investigators, 86 by other district staff
- 8 fires were not investigated
- 28 accidentally caused fires
- 54 intentionally caused fires, of which 24 were suspected to have been arson
- 34 negligence caused fires
- 1 unknown caused fire
- 3 prosecutions under the Wildfires Act
- 3 warnings

Fire investigations supported 28 charge backs to various communities or agencies.

To provide the capability to detect, report and safely initial attack all fires throughout the province with minimal costs and loss in accordance with the Initial Attack Preparedness System and Fire Program Policy and Operational Guidelines.

Air Operations

The 2009 spring fire season was much slower than normal for Manitoba aviation resources. Manitoba was able to assist Saskatchewan through two quick strike missions. SEAT aircraft were not hired this year (25 days in 2008) as a result of the slow season. This is the first time in nine years that the SEAT were not used to supplement Manitoba's CL-215 fleet for community protection, new fire starts and sustained fire action.

Manitoba helicopter operations were also much slower than usual. The long-term helicopter contracts were supplemented by casual hire helicopters as required. This year Manitoba had 6 helicopters on long term contracts. The estimated total for aircraft expenditures was approximately $3.6 million compared to $15.0 million in 2008. This represents 4,866.8 flight hours (8,686 hrs in 2008) with minimal reported incidents.

Science & Technology

Manitoba implemented the OPSGPS mapping program at all regions and districts enabling the crews who extinguish the fire to map the fire and transfer data via the PDN (Provincial Data Network) into the corporate GIS system. This has led to better mapping and GIS training for the fire crews.

Manitoba continues to eliminate weather data traffic from its voice radio repeater network by moving radio data calls to non-repeated frequencies on lower towers. This has resulted in decreased radio noise for air and ground operations.

Manitoba continues to implement GOES transmitters on its weather stations having 3 in place with 7 additional units ready for installation next spring.

MODIS development continues with more value added information in Google Earth layers. The Fire Program is working towards making these mapped fires available to the general public as a Google Earth layer.

Forecast automation has been completed using Canadian Weather Models (GEMS) with work incorporating U.S. models being considered. The Fire Program worked with Manitoba Hydro to develop the Hydro Proximity Reporting System (HPR), the system electronically alerts Manitoba Hydro of fires burning near their critical assets and maps them in Google Earth.

To prevent forest fires through public education.

Fire prevention advertising once again began early and worked north with the fire season. Advertising consisted of newspaper and radio ads as well as ad placement within publications such as the Manitoba Angling Guide and other select publications. Radio ads also aired on radio stations throughout the province including Native Communications Radio Network and some northern radio stations. Some advertising was also developed geared to the fall resource users and placed in the outdoor features of select newspapers. Target specific advertising involving fire safety geared towards All Terrain Vehicle users was developed in the form of safety posters and distributed.

Fire Smart continues to receive attention in the province in the form of material distribution and joint proposals with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) and Manitoba Conservation. Some of the ongoing work with the OFC is to include joint fire investigation training, joint Incident Command System training, hazard analysis and risk assessments of major Parks, fire proofing strategies and initiatives with cottage owners and municipalities, and development of a Fire Smart public education program. Smokey Bear fire prevention materials were ordered through the USDA national symbols cache and distributed throughout the Manitoba fire regions. The prevention program was supplemented with handouts including of various types.

To provide a trained complement of fire-line staff to successfully meet policy objectives.

Fire line training conducted in the past year included:

- 164 - Type 1 Initial Attack Crew Members were trained to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) national standard. The training involved basic fire suppression, fire weather, fire behavior, aircraft safety, WHMIS, TDG, First Aid, Chainsaw Safety and Hover Exit Certification.
- 129 – New Type 2 Emergency Fire Fighters were trained to the CIFFC exchange standard.394 – Type 3 Emergency Fire Fighters were trained or recertified to the provincial training standard.
- 93 – Type 3 Emergency Fire Fighter Crew Leaders were trained or recertified to the provincial training standard.

Additional training included:

- 35 persons – S-200 Initial Attack Crew Leader.
- 10 persons – Aerial Detection Observer Course.
- Numerous First Aid, Transportation of Dangerous Good, WHMIS, and Radio Operator courses.

To coordinate the Provincial Wildfire Program to ensure adequate manpower, aircraft and equipment resources are available to achieve efficient and cost effective fire suppression activities required to minimize human, property and resource losses.

The Provincial Fire Equipment Working Group continues in maintenance status as well as continual research and development and upgrades.

- Testing of a Fire Inventory Management System from Alberta that is used by other fire agencies in Canada
- Review and revision of the Fire Equipment Standards Manual
- Review and revision of Mobile Warehouse contents
- Procurement of containment berms for fuel caches
- Establishment of a pump and hose warehouse trailer

- Focus remaining on eco-friendly green products and equipment specifications

A total of 4 Provincial Resource Orders were received and filled for provincial mobilizations during the 2009 fire season.

Four separate equipment orders were deployed to British Columbia, including: pumps, hose, relay tanks and drip torches.

Four separate personnel deployments to British Columbia included: 1 Incident Management Team (IMT) and 3 – 20 person Type 1 Initial Attack crew deployments, each complete with 2 Agency Representatives.

There were also two air tanker quick strike dispatches into Saskatchewan in June.

Manitoba Fire Program hosted the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact national/international conference in September.

Table R0.20

2009 - Number of Fires and Area Burned by Region and Cause

2009	Northeast		Northwest		Western		Central		Eastern		Province	
CAUSE	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)
recreation	17	35.5	3	58.3			1	21.1	4	0.6	**25**	**115.5**
settlement	19	35.3	1	0.1	5	653.4	2	78.6	5	28.9	**32**	**796.3**
woods operations												
other industry			1	0.3							**1**	**0.3**
railroads	1	0.3									**1**	**0.3**
public projects	1	0.1					2	0.2	9	1.5	**12**	**1.8**
incendiary	12	10.7	5	85.0	11	334.0	3	601.7	6	64.6	**37**	**1,096.0**
miscellaneous	1	0.1	2	0.4			3	120.8	3	0.7	**9**	**122.0**
agricultural												
lightning	26	664.0	39	74.5	1	1.0			1	0.3	**67**	**739.8**
all causes	**77**	**746.0**	**51**	**218.6**	**17**	**988.4**	**11**	**822.4**	**28**	**96.6**	**184**	**2,872.0**

Table R0.21

2009 - Number of Fires and Area Burned by Priority Zone and Action Status

2009	Actioned Fires				No Action Fires				Limited Action Fires				All Fires			
ZONE	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	% of area burned
RED	116	79.45%	710.4	88.40%	1	4.55%	18.0	4.72%	10	62.50%	1,409.8	83.58%	127	69.02%	2,138.2	74.45%
YELLOW																
GREEN	27	18.49%	78.2	9.73%	14	63.64%	30.4	7.97%	5	31.25%	262.0	15.53%	46	25.00%	370.6	12.90%
WHITE	3	2.05%	15.0	1.87%	7	31.82%	333.2	87.32%	1	6.25%	15.0	0.89%	11	5.98%	363.2	12.65%
ALL ZONES	146	100.0%	803.6	100.0%	22	100.0%	381.6	100.0%	16	100.0%	1,686.8	100.0%	184	100.0%	2,872.0	100.0%

Red Zone	High Priority - Full fire suppression
Yellow Zone	Medium Priority - Suppression if resources available
Green Zone	Low Priority - Suppression if resources available
White Zone	No suppression unless values are at risk

Table R0.22

2009 - Area burned by Priority Zone

2009	Zone Area (ha.)	Hectares Burned	% of zone burned
Red	11,415,633.5	2,138.2	0.019%
Yellow	685,691.0	0.0	0.000%
Green	9,770,018.8	370.6	0.004%
White	23,081,244.9	363.2	0.002%
All Zones	**44,952,588.2**	**2,872.0**	**0.006%**

Figure 2

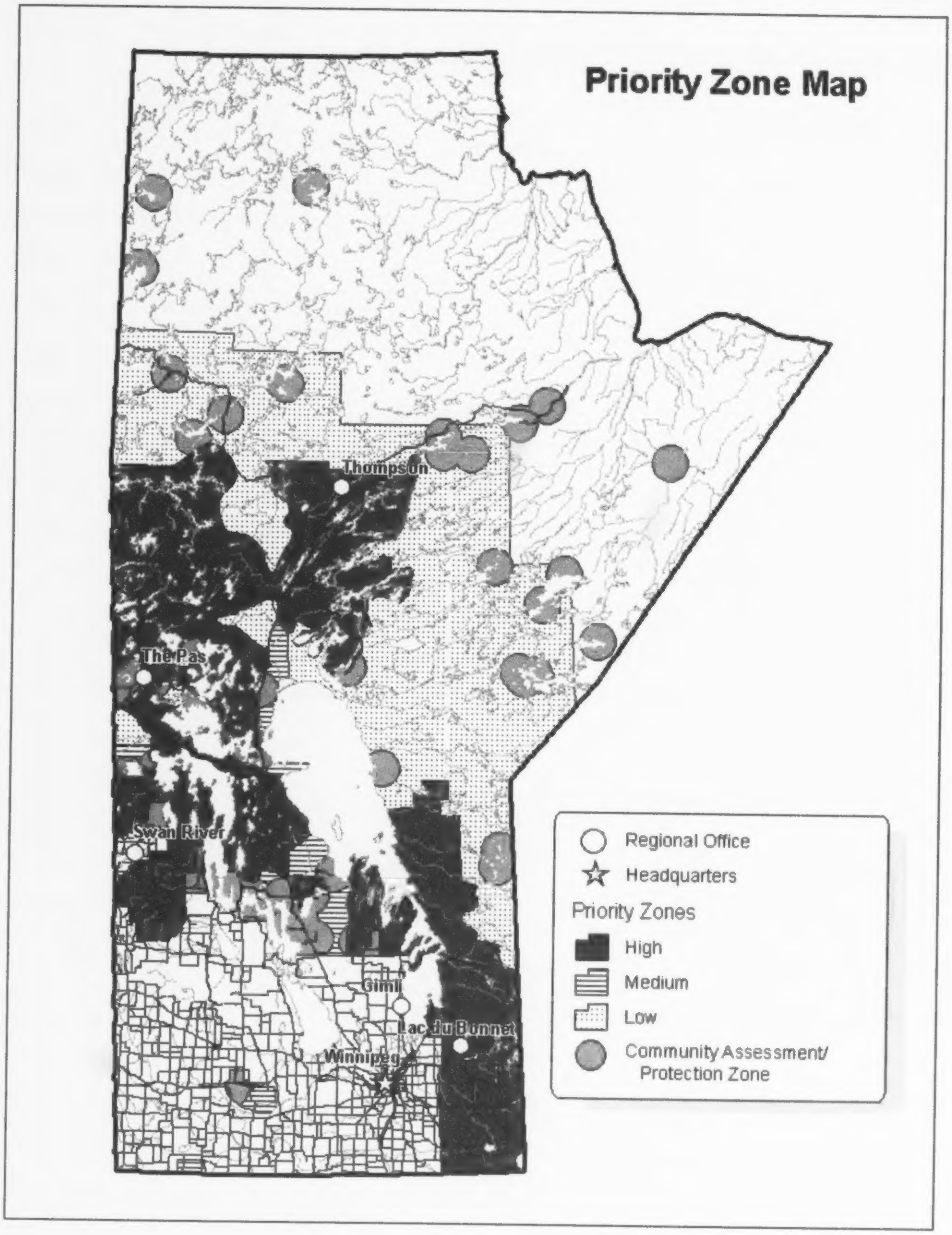
Priority Zone Map
Thompson
The Pas
Swan River
Gimli
Lac du Bonnet
Winnipeg
○ Regional Office
☆ Headquarters
Priority Zones
High
Medium
Low
Community Assessment/ Protection Zone

Figure 3

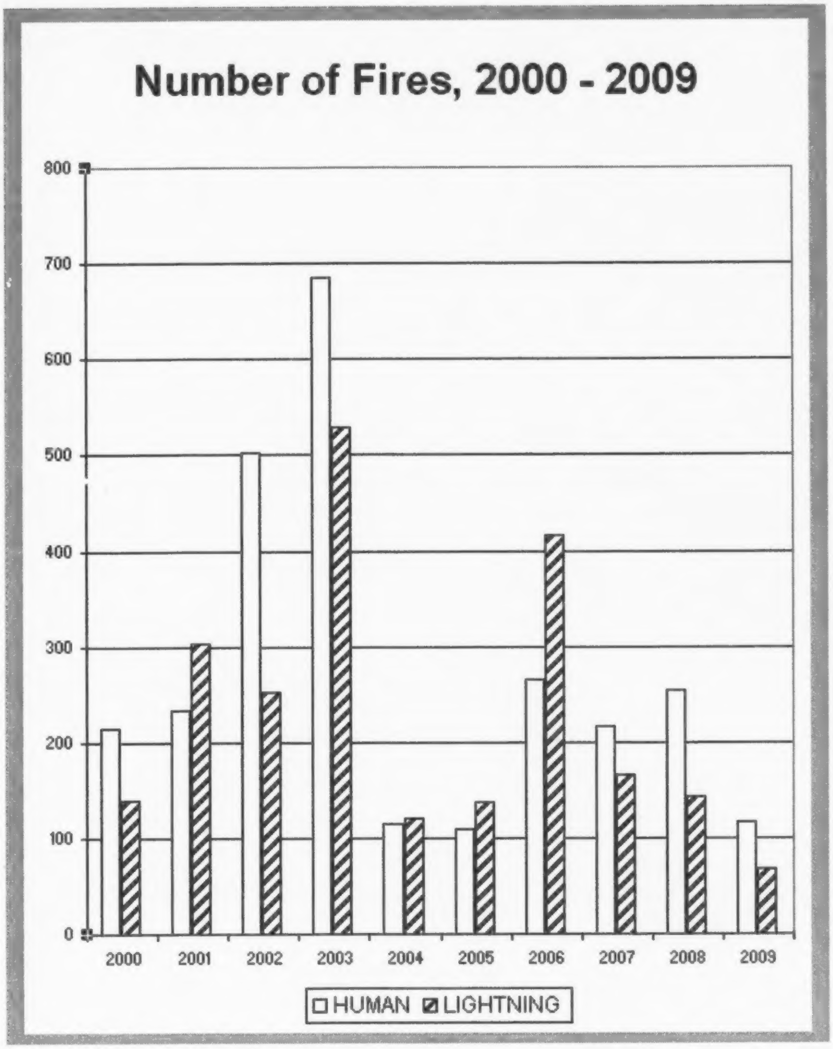
Number of Fires, 2000 - 2009
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
□ HUMAN ▨ LIGHTNING

Figure 4

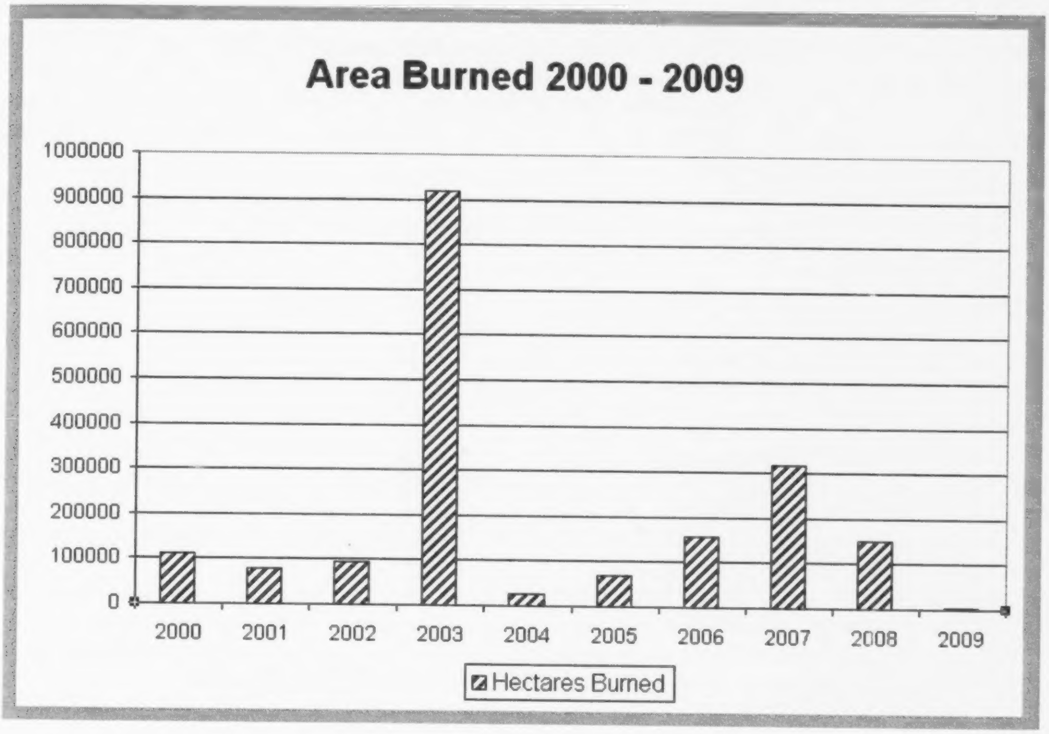

Table RO.23

12.2(h) Fire and Emergency Response Program

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	6,606	69.98	6,726	(120)	
Other Expenditures	10,387		10,424	(37)	
Less: Recoverable from Emergency Expenditures	(490)		(500)	10	
Total 12.2(h)	**16,503**	**69.98**	**16,650**	**(147)**	

Environmental Services

Environmental Services develops, coordinates, and/or administers environmental programs associated with *The Environment Act, The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act, The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act, The Ozone Depleting Substances Act*, and associated regulations. This includes environmental programs that address the management of:

- contaminated sites;
- crop residue burning;
- environmental liabilities;
- hazardous waste;
- livestock manure and mortalities;
- municipal wastewater;
- onsite wastewater;
- petroleum storage;
- solid waste; and
- other related environmental issues.

Environmental Services also:

- coordinates and provides emergency response to incidents and accidents that place the environment or human health at risk;
- provides technical expertise and engineering support for the development and implementation of environmental programs;
- develops and/or updates legislation, guidelines, procedures, and communication materials to support the administration and enforcement of environmental programs; and
- represents the Department on national technical committees pertaining to the Division's environmental programs.

2009-2010 Key Program Outputs:

Environment

- Existing program specific information on the Department's website was revised and updated.
- For more information visit: http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/envprograms/index.html
- Staff responded to 600 requests for file searches for program specific information.
- The *Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation* was amended to ensure increased protection of human health and the environment.
- The Environmental Remediation Program continues to address the assessment and remediation of priority environmental liability sites. An expansion of the West Hawk Lake water treatment plant has been initiated and petroleum storage tanks were removed at a former gas station.

Livestock

- Projects involving construction, expansion or modification of manure storage facilities are subject to a Manitoba Conservation permit. 49 permits for construction, modification and repair of manure storage facilities were issued.
- Registration of manure storage facilities that were constructed prior to the regulatory requirements for permits is mandatory. The registration process provides a process to have the environmental performance of these older facilities inspected and assessed regularly.

Applications for registration of approximately 587 manure storage facilities have been received to date.

- Operations with 300 animal units or greater are required to submit annual source water analysis reports to Manitoba Conservation. The department received 370 source water monitoring submissions in 2009.
- Manure Management Plans are an effective tool for ensuring the sustainability of livestock production by requiring prior-to-spreading calculation of the rate of manure application that is agronomic ally appropriate and environmentally sound. 515 MMPs were processed and registered for 2009 crop year. The department conducted audits on 5% of the plans.
- Producers are required to contact Manitoba Conservation when reportable manure spills occur.
- Reportable spills include spills that: exceed 10,000 litres; occur during transport; involve manure escaping the boundary of the agricultural operation; or result in manure entering a surface water feature or groundwater.
- Staff responded to approximately 20 manure reportable and not-reportable spills. Most spills were relatively minor and many involved failures in couplings, cleanout blockage or sections of manure pipelines during pumping.
- There was one significant manure spill of approximately 1,000,000 L reported to staff. Long term environmental impact was minimized by rapid response, including construction of dykes and cleanup.
- Staff met on numerous occasions during the year with livestock producers, most producer organizations, environmental advocacy groups, municipal governments, other government agencies and the general public to communicate regulatory requirements.
- Most commonly committed offences that warranted action continue to involve improper disposal or storage of mortalities and spillage, escape or improper storage of manure.
- Tables RO.25 and RO.26 summarize enforcement of the livestock regulations since 1999 and Environmental Programs Enforcement 2009/10.

Emergency Response

- The emergency response program received over 2,600 calls to the emergency response 24-hour line. Of these, approximately 450 were handled directly by the Department's Emergency Response Team and/or Regional personnel. The remainders of the calls were not within the Department's mandate and were directed to the appropriate outside agency for action.
- The Emergency Response Team assisted Police forces in Manitoba with identification, removal, and disposal of chemicals found in clandestine drug operations / marijuana grow operations, and helped evaluate the extent of contamination at the site for remediation purposes.
- The Emergency Response Team is also an active participant in Manitoba's capability to respond to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) threats.

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- The Emergency Response Team assisted Police forces in Manitoba with identification, removal, and disposal of chemicals found in clandestine drug operations / marijuana grow operations, and helped evaluate the extent of contamination at the site for remediation purposes.
- The Emergency Response Team is also an active participant in Manitoba's capability to respond to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) threats.

Table RO.24
12.2(i)1 Environmental Services

Expenditures by Total Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,916	33.00	2,245	(329)	
Other Expenditures	1,148		1,284	(136)	
Total 12.2(i)1	**3,064**	**33.00**	**3,529**	**(465)**	1.

1. Under expenditure in Salaries, Employee Benefits and Other Expenditures is due to part year implementation of the Manure Management Phosphorus Amendment and Manure Management and Licensing initiatives.

Enforcement

Tables RO.25 and RO.26 summarize enforcement actions undertaken by the department's Environment Officers.

Table RO.25
Livestock Regulation Enforcement 1999-00 to 2009-10

Fiscal Year	Prosecutions	Warnings	Orders	Fines ($)
1999-00	9	35	10	8,496
2000-01	16	49	22	8,067
2001-02	16	53	34	11,903
2002-03	15	59	21	20,280
2003-04	19	54	57	23,076
2004-05	16	63	45	36,960
2005-06	12	53	35	8,935
2006-07	2	41	29	1,114
2007-08	0	17	21	0
2008-09	2	27	30	2881
2009-10	1	41	45	300
Total	**108**	**492**	**349**	**$120,898**

Table RO.26
Environmental Programs Enforcement

Legislation	Prosecutions	Warnings	Orders	Fines($)
The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act			2	
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act - Dangerous Goods Handling & Transportation Regulation - Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Products Regulation	26	13	14	20,374
The Environment Act - Litter Regulation - Burning of Crop Residue and Non-Crop Herbage Regulation - Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation - Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation - Waste Disposal Grounds Regulation	36	131	54	21,378
Total	**62**	**144**	**70**	**$41,616**

Regional Services

The mandate of Environmental Operations is to deliver environmental programs at a regional level, and to ensure compliance with the various environmental legislation administered by Manitoba Conservation: *The Environment Act, The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act, The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act, The Ozone Depleting Substances Act*, and associated regulations. This includes environmental legislation and programs that address the management of:

- contaminated sites;
- crop residue burning;
- environmental liabilities;
- hazardous waste;
- livestock manure and mortalities;
- municipal wastewater;
- onsite wastewater;
- petroleum storage;
- solid waste; and
- other related environmental issues.

Environmental Operations also:

- Ensures the maintenance of a healthy natural environment for the use and well-being of present and future generations of Manitobans.
- Ensures industry and public compliance with environmental-based legislation through information, education, inspection and enforcement.
- Administers onsite wastewater management registrations and waste disposal ground permits.

- Maintains effective relationships and consults with local governments, industry and commercial interests, user groups, and the general public respecting operational activities within the regions.
- Assists in the development of legislation, procedures, protocols and operational guidelines for administration and delivery of the environmental programs.

2009-2010 Key Program Outputs:

Environment

- Undertook a reorganization of regional staff into a consolidated streamed environment business line.
- Successfully administered the remediation of the former IKO roofing site in St. Boniface
- Continued Onsite Wastewater Enhanced Inspection Program Inspections in West St. Paul and Hecla-Grindstone Provincial Park.
- Instituted a five-year plan to bring northern Manitoba communities in compliance with Municipal Wastewater Management requirements.

Table RO.27

12.2(i)2 Regional Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,886	60.00	3,692	(806)	
Other Expenditures	662		910	(248)	
Total 12.2(i)2	**3,548**	**16.00**	**4,602**	**(1,054)**	1.

1. Under expenditure in Salaries, Employee Benefits and Other Expenditures is due to part year implementation of the Onsite Wastewater Management System Program.

Table RO.28

Suspensions or Variations under *The Environment Act 2009/2010.*

Date	Location	Purpose
April 15, 2009	Village of Riverton	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Flood related.
April 21, 2009	Town of Emerson	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Flood related.
April 21, 2009	Town of Stonewall	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity.
April 21, 2009	Town of Swan Lake	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity.
April 21, 2009	Town of St. Pierre	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Flood related.
May 11, 2009	Highway Gardens Ltd.	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity.
July 29, 2009	Town of Neepawa	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity.
October 27, 2009	Seven Sisters Provincial Park-Otter Falls	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period.
October 27, 2009	Seven Sisters Provincial Park-Dorothy Lake	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period.
October 27, 2009	Seven Sisters Provincial Park-Opapiskaw	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period
October 28, 2009	Keashcell Parks Ltd.	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period
October 28, 2009	Village of Riverton	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period
October 28, 2009	Providence College and Seminary	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period
November 5, 2009	Incorporated Community of Seymourville	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period
November 9, 2009	Village of Barrows	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period
November 23, 2009	Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period
November 23, 2009	Rural Municipality of Ste. Anne	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period
November 26, 2009	Lake Winnipeg Mission Camp Society-Camp Arnes	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity.
December 16, 2009	Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs-Camperville	Lack of Hydraulic storage capacity. Variance pertains to discharge period

PROGRAMS DIVISION

Divisional Administration

Divisional administration provides strategic management of Manitoba's natural resources and environment (parks, lands, forests and wildlife) in keeping with the principles of sustainable development.

Table CP.1

12.3(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	135	2.00	179	(44)	
Other Expenditures	281		392	(111)	
Total 12.3(a)	**416**	**2.00**	**571**	**(155)**	

Wildlife Enhancement Initiative

The Initiative continued to support wildlife and habitat management projects with funds from a special impost on hunting licences. Hunter-funded projects included:

The operation and maintenance of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs); the production and installation of WMA signs; boundary definition at Peonan Point and the Whitemud Watershed WMAs; and weed control.

A hunting heritage program that supported organizations and events that promote and encourage hunting.

Support for mentored hunting events that provide an educational experience to encourage hunting among Manitoba's youth, women, and other interested individuals. The purpose is to introduce people to the concepts of ethical utilization and stewardship of natural resources, which ultimately contributes to the long-term conservation and management of Manitoba's wildlife mosaic. Mentored hunting events included workshops, seminars, mentor appreciation days, and mentored hunts for waterfowl, wild turkeys and deer. Interest and participation is increasing annually and the program is adapting to meet newly identified demands. The contributions of partner agencies and dedication of volunteers throughout the province has resulted in a program that serves as a model to other provinces. The program saw further expansion in 2009, with more hunt locations and increased opportunities, especially for adults. Incentives to youth remain important to participation, as evidenced by the 3,300 youths that purchased the youth hunting license package in 2009/10.

The Department's Alice Chambers-Hyacinth Colomb student assistantship program provides project funding and guidance for undergraduate or graduate students undertaking academic research that will assist the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch manage wildlife, including species at risk. The Department annually provides financial assistance and guidance to university students under this program for specific projects. Information from these projects is used by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Branch in a variety of ways including identifying new occurrences of species in Manitoba and in habitat and species management activities.

Aerial surveys were conducted for: moose in GHAs 18, 18A, 18B and 18C; moose in GHAs 13 and 13A; moose in GHA 26; coastal caribou in GHA 3; and white-tailed deer in the Killarney area.

Support was provided to the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre for diagnostic services for wildlife diseases.

Table WH.1

12.3(b) Wildlife Enhancement Initiative

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	219	0.00	225	(6)	
Total 12.3(b)	**219**	**0.00**	**225**	**(6)**	

Parks & Natural Areas

Parks and Natural Areas Branch is responsible for managing Provincial Parks, Ecological Reserves and Canadian Heritage Rivers, for the long-term benefit of Manitobans and the environment. These lands protect unique, representative or outstanding natural, cultural, and heritage features and resources, conserve ecosystems, and provide recreational and educational opportunities to approximately 5 million visitors each year. The Branch also has a prominent role in identification and establishment of other protected and natural areas.

Key Results Achieved

Generated $10.3 million in revenue by persons using the parks for personal enjoyment, commercial and general use.

Park visitation exceeded 5.4 million visitors with campsite reservations of just over 62,000, an increase of 6,700 over 2008 and an increase of 25,000 over 2005, the year before the Parks Reservation Service was implemented.

Enhancements under the Provincial Camping Initiative continued. Most notable was the continuation of construction of a 65 unit campground expansion at Wellman Lake campground in Duck Mountain Provincial Park, the initiation of construction work a new fully-serviced campground at Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park and the expansion of yurts to Stephenfield and Camp Morton Provincial Parks.

Consultations were completed on Chitek Lake and Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserves, which were renewed for a further five years.

Administration Section

The Administration Section is responsible for establishing strategic direction and guidelines, ensuring conformity to Department policies and government goals and assessing the effectiveness of programs and services offered to the public. This section provides administrative and human resources support, capital budget coordination and the management of fees collected from Park users, commercial concessions, and the leased properties.

Key Results Achieved

- Managed park programs and facilities in accordance with policies, procedures and standards to meet branch, department and government goals. Developed park programs and facilities according to the branch current and capital spending estimates.

- Generated $10.3 million in revenue by persons using the parks for personal enjoyment, commercial and general use.

- Conducted the activities of Parks and Natural Areas in a manner consistent with policy, the departmental mission, and government priorities.

- Provided grants to organizations who implemented activities in accordance with branch policy, departmental mission, and government priorities.

- Participated on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and the Canadian Parks Council.

Planning and Development Section

The Planning and Development Section provides design and project management capacity, prepares land-use plans, development plans, policies, and regulations to guide establishment, management, and development of the Park System, to:

- Conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity;
- Preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources; and
- Provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting.

The Section guides establishment and management of new provincial parks and ecological reserves, and manages the Canadian Heritage Rivers Program in Manitoba. The Section undertakes environmental licensing and land use allocation reviews. The Section also provides landscape architectural and project management capacity, overseeing the design and implementation of capital works projects within provincial parks.

Over the 2009/10 year, staff from the section participated in additional programs both internal to the branch and to other agencies. Examples include:

- Support to the Protected Areas Initiative;
- Participation on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Technical Planning Committee;
- Participation on the Floodway Recreation Committee;
- Support to the Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee;
- Support and advice in the development of facilities and infrastructure across the park system;
- Review of *Environment Act* License proposals, Crown land circulars and related items for proposed developments to assess possible implications on lands of interest to or administered by the Branch (provincial parks, park reserves, ecological reserves);
- Coordination of provincial input to national park establishment initiatives; and
- Consultation with stakeholders and the public to advance park system planning, management planning, and park development.

Park System Planning

This program is responsible for the strategic direction of the Manitoba Provincial Park System, as well as establishing both new and revised park boundaries, classifications, primary park goals and objectives, and Land Use Categories. This is done via consultation involving the public, stakeholders, First Nations and government agencies. A major function at present is undertaking the review process required to confirm permanent designations for existing Park Reserves.

Key Results Achieved

- The appointment of personnel to the positions of Head of Park System Planning and Ecology and Park System Planner renewed the Branch's capacity to initiate and conduct planning processes for 13 park reserves proposed for designation as provincial parks or ecological reserves. The section focused on consultations towards achieving provincial park designations for Fisher Bay and Birch Island Park Reserves (expiry October 31, 2010).
- Consultations were completed on Chitek Lake and Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserves. Chitek Lake and Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserves were renewed for a further five years.
- Consultations continued with Mosakahiken Cree Nation and the Moose Lake Resource Management Board on Little Limestone Lake Park Reserve, working towards a permanent provincial park designation of this protected area.
- Proposed development activities within and adjacent to provincial parks were reviewed to determine if they were appropriate and advice was offered on how to mitigate impacts.
- Annual Operating Plans for all major logging companies and quota holder associations were reviewed to ensure that harvesting and renewal operations were consistent with regulations and licensing, and impacts on parks were reduced.

- Consultations with First Nations and stakeholders were conducted to review the Fisher Bay Park Reserve and Fisher River Cree Nation's and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society's (CPAWS) proposed boundary expansion area.

Management Planning

The Planning and Development Section is responsible for preparing park management plans, developing park policies and facilitating resource management projects. Management plans address topics such as park use, landscape protection and recreational development, and ensure that the main purposes of the park are considered when land-use decisions are made. They provide details on what land uses are appropriate and ensure that new activities or developments are compatible with the long-term management of the park.

Key Results Achieved

- The Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas Branch Directives Manual continued to be reviewed and updated. This included work on an off-road vehicles directive for provincial parks.
- Continued implementation of previously approved management plans including those for Duck Mountain, Grand Beach and Atikaki provincial parks.
- Development continued on the ATV Trails Plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park in consultation with local stakeholders and the ATV Trail Planning Commissioner.
- Public consultations were conducted on a proposed campground development for Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park.
- In cooperation with Regional Operations staff, public consultations were conducted on a proposal by the Tim Horton Children's Foundation for a youth leadership camp at Meditation Lake in Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Design and Development

This Section provides development direction, site planning, and public facility design and mapping. Staff participated on the Watchable Wildlife Working Group with Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and Manitoba Tourism Secretariat; the Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee; and on the Interdepartmental Recreational Trails Committee. The Unit is also responsible for coordination of the Parks Capital budget and management of infrastructure projects throughout the park system, including the coordination of the Provincial Camping Initiative. This section also provides landscape architectural and project management capacity, overseeing the design and implementation of capital works projects within provincial parks. A major function of this team at present is the development of new and the improvement of existing facilities.

Key Results Achieved

- The design of facilities and interpretative features at the new Duff Roblin Provincial Park continued. Construction of the preliminary earthwork was completed in 2009 with site stabilization and naturalization continuing.
- Construction was initiated on shower buildings at Birds Hill Campground and at Nutimik Lake Campground in Whiteshell Provincial Park. Both buildings were designed in the spirit of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and include conservation-minded technologies such as waterless urinals, low-flush fixtures and coin-operated showers.
- Landscape and site improvements associated with the Birds Hill Washroom/Shower Building, including improved pathway connections, were designed and tendered for construction.
- Design and construction of a 32 stall washroom building at Grand Beach was started. The new washroom features a reinforced rammed earth wall, the first of its kind in Manitoba. This ancient building technique uses local limestone and beach sand mixed with water and concrete which is then mechanically compacted to create a strong, durable and beautiful wall that is also structural, helping to hold up the washroom's green roof.

- At Duck Mountain Provincial Park, design and construction work proceeded on a 65 site expansion of Wellman Lake Campground and new green washroom/shower buildings at Wellman Lake and Childs Lake Campgrounds.
- Construction was initiated on the development of a new fully-serviced 110 site campground at Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park. This development will include three washroom/shower buildings and a new campground office. The campground was designed with energy conservation measures in mind and includes solar heating for hot water, low-flush fixtures and coin-operated showers.
- Design work was initiated on the Otter Falls and Nutimik Lake campground enhancements and will include shoreline stabilization to retain threatened campsites, interpretation and landscape improvements.
- Design and construction of upgrading work was undertaken at the Birds Hill Riding Stables in order to improve manure management. Site work associated with the stables continued.
- Upgrade to the Grindstone Lagoon and road was initiated. Site work associated with the lagoon continued.
- The Force Main and Lift Station at West Hawk Lake was upgraded.
- Design and construction of water treatment plant at Paint Lake completed. Site work associated with the plant continued.
- Six new Yurts were constructed at each of Camp Morton and Stephenfield Provincial Parks.

Ecological Reserves

Ecological Reserves are established under *The Ecological Reserves Act* to protect areas with unique and representative plants, animals, geologic features, natural landscapes, and ecological processes.

Key Results Achieved

- Proposed development activities adjacent to ecological reserves were reviewed to determine if they were appropriate and advice was offered on how to mitigate impacts.
- Annual Operating Plans for all major logging companies and quota holder associations were reviewed to ensure that harvesting and renewal operations were consistent with regulations and licensing and impacts on ecological reserves were reduced.
- The Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee undertook an intensive review of proposed ecological reserves in southeast Manitoba and various other locations throughout the province that are deemed to be priority sites for designation.
- Entry signs were erected for Birch River, Brokenhead Wetland, and Jennifer and Tom Shay ecological reserves.
- Entry signs were produced for Whitemouth Bog Ecological Reserve.

Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canada's national river conservation program. It promotes, protects and enhances Canada's river heritage, and ensures that Canada's leading rivers are managed in a sustainable manner. The CHRS is built on river stewardship, co-operation and public support. Rivers in the CHRS possess outstanding natural and/or cultural values, offer quality recreational opportunities, and showcase the benefits of healthy river environments, now and in the future.

Key Results Achieved

- Involvement in the implementation of the Hayes River Canadian Heritage River System plan. A GIS inventory mapping project was initiated to map natural and cultural features and recreational sites and features along the river.
- Involvement in the implementation of the Red River Canadian Heritage River System plan.
- Work began on a series of posters featuring each of the four Canadian Heritage Rivers in Manitoba.

Recreation and Education Services (formerly Support Services)

The Recreation and Education Services section sets the direction of the outdoor recreation, beach safety and the interpretation programs in Manitoba Provincial Parks and evaluates and implements new initiatives in campground, day-use, backcountry management and outdoor education, as well as customer-service training and volunteer activities. The Section guides and supports Regional Operations in ensuring high quality outdoor recreational experiences. This includes analysis of operating strategies and procedures, policy review, market research, marketing strategy development, promotion, and statistical compilation and trend evaluation.

Recreation Programming

The Recreation Programming Unit is responsible to provide recreational opportunities that are diverse in scope through camping, cabins and yurts, and group use facilities through fair and equitable access to provincial parks. The program must ensure that both field and head office staff provides quality customer service. The Parks Reservation Service is a major component of Recreation Programming.

Key Results Achieved

- Delivery of the recreation programming in Manitoba's provincial parks including camping; cabins and yurts; group use; Parks Reservation Service; and Campground Host.

- Reservations were made available through a call centre, on-line and through 27 campground offices in 2009. Improvements to the system included the streamlining of processes that would improve customer services as well as reduce administrative efforts including the ability to manage existing business and extend services at the campground level, and development of faster and secure communication networks for campgrounds.

- New and enhanced campground facilities continued to be developed under the Provincial Camping Initiative including "Comfort Camping" products such as yurts and cabins. Two additional campgrounds offered 12 new yurts in 2009 and a further two premium cabins were opened to the public at Hecla.

- The Seasonal Camping program saw 8 basic sites converted to water/electrical sites at Adam Lake and an increase of electrically serviced sites at Grand Beach. The redesigned seasonal sites at Toniata Beach resulted in 35 much improved sites for campers.

- In recognition of the economic times and the desire to increase recreational opportunities closer to home, Park Entry was free in 2009, which was the first year of a two year program where park vehicle permits and the associated entry fee were not required.

Beach Safety

The Beach Safety program in Manitoba Parks is primarily focused on public relations and water safety education and is provided under contract at three provincial park beaches (Birds Hill, Grand Beach and Winnipeg Beach). Officers provide onsite water safety education and emergency response as required. Provincial parks offer beach opportunities at 82 other non-staffed locations.

Key Results Achieved

- Manitoba Parks continued to be a participating core-group member of the Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters (MCSW) for water safety public education purposes, and was involved in the drowning prevention component of the Provincial Injury Prevention Strategy. The MCSW continued to build its water safety strategy and framework, including delivery of the Northern Water Smart Program and the PFD Loaner Program to northern Manitoba communities and funding of the Lifesaving Society's Water Smart Program for new Canadians, which are public education presentations given to English as an Additional Language (EAL) students.

- 911 emergency telephone service was implemented in Duck Mountain Provincial Park in October 2009, in fulfillment of an earlier commitment to expand 911 service throughout provincial parks. Establishment of 911 at Moose Lake continued to be pursued.

- The Beach Safety program made over 11,000 contacts with beach visitors at three provincial parks during the summer of 2009. Half of these contacts related to public education of parental supervision responsibilities. Public inquiries and injury prevention activities comprised a majority of remaining contacts. Five water rescues were performed.

- Under *The Emergency Measures Act*, Manitoba Provincial Parks are required to prepare and adopt an emergency preparedness program and emergency plans that meet the mandated requirements set out by the Emergency Measures Organization. A draft emergency plan template was developed in spring 2010, which is currently being implemented at the field level.

Interpretation

The Interpretation program offers visitors a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources in provincial parks. This in turn assists the public in understanding the goals and programs of the department. Live field programs complemented by publications, outdoor exhibits, and audio-visual materials bring visitors in direct contact with park resources and management. The program also undertakes research leading to trail and brochure development and delivery of live programs throughout the park system.

- Delivery of the field program included two full-time interpreters at Birds Hill and Whiteshell provincial parks, and 19 seasonal interpreters. Programs were presented at Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Hecla/Grindstone, Lockport, Paint Lake, River Road, St. Malo, St. Norbert, Spruce Woods, Turtle Mountain and Whiteshell Provincial Parks. Interpreters contacted about 90,000 visitors at interpreter-led events and in interpretive centres and museums.

- Interpretive trails were upgraded consistent with the work plan and personal interpretive programming was provided in 12 provincial parks.

- Expansion of the personal interpretive program to Stephenfield Provincial Park continued.

- The Junior Naturalist and Park Explorer children's programs were expanded to allow for use in any park. In addition the Nature Detective program was developed for our youngest audience aged five and under, to be assisted by the child's parents and/or older siblings. The generic activity books are distributed through park interpreters and campground offices.

- Booklets for Whiteshell, Spruce Woods, Birds Hill and Hecla/Grindstone were revised. New activity booklets were developed for Grand Beach Provincial Park and a generic Manitoba Provincial Parks booklet was developed to be distributed at all other provincial park campgrounds.

- The Passport to Adventures program was launched. It encourages new and current park visitors to visit different provincial parks in nine of the 12 natural regions that make up the province of Manitoba.

- Four new interactive computer-based exhibits entitled "Nature Calls" were launched at four sites in Whiteshell Provincial Park. They are: Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary Interpretive Centre, Whiteshell Natural History Museum at Nutimik Lake, West Hawk Lake Geologic Museum and the Falcon Lake Interpretive Workshop.

- The Heritage Properties program was coordinated in Manitoba's Provincial Parks including building assessment and restoration work.

- Structural work on the monastery ruins at Trappist Monastery Provincial Heritage Park was completed in 2009, with further landscaping and security lighting scheduled for 2010.

Key Program Outputs

Park Districts Programming	**Amount**
Vacation Homes	6,300 (+/-)
Commercial Operations	110
Special Consideration Organizations	45
Permits for cottage construction or structural modification	401
Revenue Generated	$4.8 million
Leasehold Inspections	118 (+/-)
Outdoor Recreation Programming	**Amount**
Number of visitors	5.4 million
Total Number of campsites	6,094
Transient Campsites	4,509 (3,809 available for reservation or 84.5%)
Transient Camping Nights	191,611
Seasonal Campsites (# does not include Permanent Trailer Village or Concessionaire campsites)	1,478
Seasonal Camping Nights	55,761
Campgrounds offering reservation	39
Group Use Sites	101
Family Vacation Cabins	33 (at 2 locations)
Yurts	50 (at 7 locations)
Reservations	62,044
Reservation Rate, compared to 2008/09	6,746 more reservations or 12% increase
Reservations made through Web	66%
Reservations made opening day April 6, 2009	11,461

Park Districts

The Park Districts Section administers the Vacation Home Lot development program, Commercial Operations and Special Consideration Organization (SCO) operations under the authority of *The Provincial Parks Act* and regulations including the Park Activities Regulation and the Permits and Leases Regulation. The section manages and controls land use activities and developments on vacation home, commercial business, and SCO lots through a site plan permitting process. The section takes a lead role in the resolution of development related disputes between neighbours. Management decisions are prescribed in various legislation, regulations and policy guideline documents such as The Cottager's Handbook for Manitoba Provincial Parks. The costs of road maintenance, garbage handling, provision of water and sewer and other municipal type services provided to lessees, permittees and private landowners are recovered from those users through an annual invoicing program. Permits were also issued for commercial fish camps, wild rice cultivation, trapline cabin construction, hay and grazing, scientific research, and mineral claim-staking and exploration.

Key Results Achieved

- Work continued on a project to revise the methodology for charging park district service fees respecting the provision of municipal type services (roads, garbage, sewer, water, etc.).
- Additional data was collected from owners and occupiers relative to both capacity (i.e. bedrooms) and period of use of their properties to better apportion "shares", and as such the burden of cost. The system also considers that all Manitoba Conservation facilities will be assigned representative shares.
- The first extensive revisions to The Cottager's Handbook in a decade have been prepared for review by department staff prior to planned consultation with cottage associations throughout the province.

Vacation Home Lot Development Program

The Program, in co-operation with the Crown Land and Property Agency, administers about 6,300 vacation homes on leased, permitted and private lands in Parks.

Key Results Achieved

- 401 permits were issued for cottage construction or structural modification.
- 118 leasehold inspections were carried out.
- $4.8 million in land rent and service fee revenue generated.

Commercial Operations

This unit manages relations with private-sector business operators to ensure high-quality services for visitors.

Key Results Achieved

- Approximately 110 commercial operations provide such services as restaurants, stores, accommodation, golf courses, marinas, and beach concessions throughout Manitoba's provincial parks.
- There are 45 Special Consideration Organizations offering various educational, religious, and outdoor recreation programs.

Table PA.1

12.3(c) Parks and Natural Areas

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,044	30.42	1,867	177	
Other Expenditures	1,516		1,586	(70)	
Grant Assistance	561		561	0	
Total 12.3(c)	**4,121**	**30.42**	**4,014**	**107**	

Forestry

The Forestry Branch plans, manages and allocates forest resources for the long-term social, economic and environmental benefit of Manitobans. Crown forests are managed sustainably for all users, and harvest and renewal activities are implemented in a manner that conserves ecosystem diversity. The Forestry Branch reviews Forest Management License plans, and advises regional managers and enforcement personnel on forestry policies and procedures. The branch encourages diversification and growth of the forest industry along with the efficient use of Manitoba's forest resources.

To limit widespread tree mortality and timber losses, levels of protection are provided commensurate with social, economic and environmental values at risk. The branch advises and assists the public and industry with forest health issues on Crown land, private woodlots and urban forests. Standards for reforestation conducted by the province and companies have been established, and the success of forest renewal is monitored by Forestry Branch.

Administration

Branch administration establishes guidelines and ensures practices conform to department policies and government goals. It provides administrative support and personnel duties, prepares annual estimates, ensures expenditures conform to estimates and department policy, controls funds, monitors efficiency and effectiveness of expenditures and coordinates development of the annual work plan.

Key Results Achieved

The Manitoba Model Forest was supported by in-kind contributions, including two representatives who sit as directors. The department continued to participate in the Canadian Forest Service's First Nations Forestry Program. A team comprised of First Nation's organizations, industry and government (federal and provincial) delivers this program, which is funded by the federal government.

The branch managed and administered a grant of $200,000 to the Manitoba Forestry Association's woodlot program, which is provided through the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund. This program includes the development of woodlot management plans and technology transfer in the south-eastern, Interlake and western portions of the province.

The branch also provided a grant of $23,400 and staff involvement to support educational programs delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association, including an environmental education competition, Envirothon.

Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis

The Forest Inventory Program

The Forest Inventory Program is responsible for creating and maintaining a comprehensive, accurate and ecologically-based database of Manitoba's forests.

Objectives

- establishing standards for data collection by the private sector
- monitoring data collection processes
- aerial photography acquisition, photo-interpretation and database maintenance (geographic information system)
- developing and maintaining a database and digital geographic information system for the distribution of digital and hard copy forest inventory information to industry, government departments and the public and for monitoring and reporting on sustainability

Key Results Achieved

The Forest Inventory Program

A tendered imagery contract to capture 50 cm resolution colour and colour infrared mosaics was successfully completed for Forest Management Unit 68 (500,000ha), and in partnership with the Federal Governments First Nations, an additional 80,000 ha was acquired for the Mathias Colomb First Nation reserve area. This imagery, along with base features collected by the Crown Lands and Geomatics Branch, will be used as the inventory base to precisely map forest landscape features.

As part of the multi-year Highrock Forest Lands Inventory project, approximately 595,000 ha were interpreted and delivered by QSP consulting and audited by branch Staff. The contract to interpret and digitally capture the forest attributes is spread across a three-year time frame. To date, Forestry Branch has received and audited the interpreted forest inventory for the approximate 72 tiles (map sheets – township and range) of Highrock Forest Section. This data meets the second year commitment of the three-year interpretation contract. Additionally, approximately 14,000 hectares of the Grass River Provincial Park has been interpreted and captured in a geographic information system format by branch staff.

The Forestry Branch has been working closely with the Canadian Forest Service to remeasure National Forest Inventory (NFI) plots, established in 2007, that make up the "Manitoba Ecosystem Monitoring Network" (MEMN) in Manitoba. A total of 10 photo plots and 12 ground plots were re-measured, and imagery for 17 photo plots (orthophoto refresh initiative) were acquired and delivered to the National Forest Inventory project office for national compilation.

Forest fires for the 2009/10 season were identified and delineated to determine the impact that fire had on Manitoba's forests. Current capture processes are evolving to incorporate technological advances in the capture of fire boundary data using GPS generated boundaries.

Spatial analyses were conducted for the 10 year review periods 1989/99 and 1999-2009 to quantify the amount of productive forest withdrawn from Forest Management Licence Agreement #2.

Historical paper-based inventories (FMUs 31, 36, and 95% of 35) that were in place prior to the implementation of the branch's Geographic Information System, were digitized and added to the provincial database. The spatial comparison and evaluation of successive forest inventories on the same geographical land base will provide important information to measure forest succession changes through time.

Forest Section/Forest Management Unit Boundary Changes

Forest Management Units within the Highrock and Pineland Forest Sections have been amalgamated in response to ecological and economic considerations. Small adjustments have also been made to available data.

The Saskatchewan River Forest Section was altered and now coincides with the FML-2 southern boundary, the growth was offset by losses of equivalent areas in adjacent Forest Sections.

The Pineland amalgamation resulted in an additional 36,000 ha from the Lake Winnipeg East Forest Section.

The Forest Productivity Program

The Forest Productivity Program manages databases and uses statistical techniques and tools, including models for predicting growth, decay, yield and quality of Manitoba's forests. The program provides the base information to assist in timber supply sustained yield projections, provincial forest management plans and silviculture activities.

Key areas of responsibility include:

- establishing and maintaining permanent sample plots to measure growth rates and the long-term response to silvicultural treatments;
- evaluating and quantifying the productivity of forests and forest lands;
- quantifying the risks and losses in forest stands due to decay;
- developing, evaluating and recommending forest growth projection systems that simulate the growth, yield and quality of commercial tree species in Manitoba; and
- developing cooperative systems of data collection, analysis and transfer with industry and other jurisdictions and the development of related standards.

Key Results Achieved

The Forest Productivity Program

A $1.2 million community-based timber volume sampling survey for a portion of the Highrock forest section was initiated, jointly funded by the province and federal government. The program directs funds to The Pas, a community impacted by the economic downturn, to hire displaced forestry workers and First Nation communities to deliver a two-year volume sampling survey as part of the provincial inventory process. The program provides training to participating individuals and enhances the community's capacity to become engaged in sustainable resource planning and development discussions. The field survey and sampling commenced in March 2010. A total of 2,625 plots will be established in 875 forest stands across the sampled area.

Analyses were undertaken to obtain and improve estimates of forest carbon across the province and to integrate carbon reporting with the provincial wood supply determination process. Information was compiled for a case study area (portion of the Lake Winnipeg East forest section) and prepared for use with the Carbon Budget Model (CBM) developed by the Canadian Forest Service. Modeling analyses associated with the case study are expected to be completed during 2010.

An assessment of carbon storage within peatland ecosystems across the province began with collaboration and assistance from the Canadian Forest Service. The analysis will provide standardized baseline information regarding Manitoba peatland ecosystems for consideration in climate change research and management planning. The assessment is expected to be completed in 2010.

The volume sampling field survey in FMUs 1 and 12 was completed with a total of 1251 plots established in 417 forest stands. The volume sampling data will be used to construct yield curves that estimate the productivity of forests in the region.

The stem analysis database was expanded as additional trees were sampled. Information collected through stem analysis surveys is used to construct models that describe stem form and tree growth.

The Permanent Sample Plot (PSP) program re-measured 53 existing plots and established 2 new plots. The PSP program is a long term monitoring survey of established plots across the province. Information collected through this program will support the development of growth and yield models for the province.

Twelve National Forestry Inventory (NFI) ground plots were re-measured. This information will be used to supplement the provincial PSP program and will be used for provincial and national reporting requirements.

Yield curves were constructed using the provincial utilization standards for the Pineland and Saskatchewan River forest sections. These curves will be used to assess the impact of the provincial standards on sustainable harvest levels.

The Resource Analysis Program

The Resource Analysis Program is responsible for managing a forest resources information base and for establishing sustainable Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) levels.

Key areas of responsibility include:

- leading the Forestry Branch in producing a timely, reliable, and informative timber supply analysis that reflects current integrated resource management strategies;
- developing methods and models for timber supply analysis;
- establishing provincial AAC levels; and
- evaluating and validating wood supply analysis prepared by industry.

Objectives

- Develop and maintain the provincial forest inventory database that ensures the sustainable development and protection of Manitoba's forest resources.
- Establish and maintain a nationally based series of long-term ecosystem monitoring plots (satellite plots and field plots) across Canada to measure provincial, national and international reporting requirements related to forest sustainability and climate change.
- Accurately predict the growth, yield and quality of Manitoba's forests in order to determine sustainable harvest levels under various forest management practices.
- Determine a reliable, informative and sustainable timber supply that reflects current resource management strategies.
- Maintain a level of expertise to ensure the section is aware of the best knowledge and scientific techniques available.

The Resource Analysis Program

Supplementary wood supply analyses were carried out for portions of the Lake Winnipeg East Forest Section to reflect the removal of forest management activities (harvesting) from Provincial Parks (Nopiming and Whiteshell). Wood supply figures for the Pineland Forest Section were also updated to reflect recent natural disturbances events (fire and wind throw), land ownership changes and new Protected Areas Initiative land selections. Addendums to existing wood supply reports will be completed in 2010/11.

A number of wood supply scenarios and sensitivity analyses were conducted for portions of the Mountain Forest Section.

Land base net down information was collected and compiled into the Saskatchewan River Forest Section forest inventory database to support future wood supply analysis.

Numerous spatial analyses (GIS) were conducted to evaluate forest resources impacted by proposed developments and potential land base withdrawals.

Forest Health and Renewal

The Forest Health and Renewal Section protects forests from damage by insects, disease and other factors, assists wildfire management and ensures all harvested Crown forest lands are renewed to maintain ecosystem integrity and biodiversity. The public and industry receive information and assistance on forest health and renewal issues from the section.

Surveys, efficacy tests and research on significant insects and diseases are conducted by the section. Significant pests and diseases monitored include spruce budworm, Dutch elm disease, jack pine budworm, elm bark beetles, Gypsy moth, dwarf mistletoe, western gall rust, armillaria root rot, spruce beetle, eastern larch beetle and pine root collar weevil. Forest health data is collected in regeneration, free-to-grow and pre-harvest surveys to develop management prescriptions and track substantially infected stands.

The Dutch Elm Disease (DED) management program seeks to reduce the impact of DED on urban elm populations by limiting the annual elm tree mortality to two per cent or less. The program manages DED in 37 communities in Manitoba and conducts surveys in a large buffer zone area surrounding the city of

Winnipeg. The program is managed through annual cost share agreements between the province and participating communities. Under these agreements, the community and the province are each responsible for the implementation of a specific set of DED control measures. Major participating urban centres are Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Morden, Winkler, Dauphin, Steinbach, Selkirk and Swan River.

The Forest Renewal Program (delivered by Regional Operations) is administered and co-ordinated by this section. The section maintains the pool of site-preparation equipment and co-ordinates its use with Regional Operations. Renewal technology transfer to region staff is provided through field trials and promoting innovation. Regional renewal programs are also supported through administration and co-ordination of silviculture contracts and by assisting in the planning and delivery of vegetation management projects. The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC), comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians, encourages the exchange of ideas and solutions and provides technology transfer.

The Trees for Tomorrow project, which started in 2008, is delivered by this section in partnership with The Manitoba Forestry Association. The goal of this program is to plant five million trees in five years. Trees are provided free for planting to private property owners, Conservation Districts, municipalities, First Nations, non-government groups and schools.

The objectives of the Tree Improvement Program are to provide a genetically improved seed source for reforestation and to ensure the conservation of the forest genetic resource. The program consists of eight government/industry co-operatives, with Tolko Manitoba, Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company and Tembec. In addition, there are six separate provincial programs. Tree Improvement staff manage and provide technical direction for all programs and provide maintenance and assessment of family tests and the management of seed orchards.

Key Results Achieved

The Spruce Budworm Program

Spruce budworm continued to infest areas of the province in 2009. In southwestern Manitoba, a single application of the biosynthetic insecticide, Mimic® 240 LV (tebufenozide) was applied aerially to a land base of 9,672 ha in Spruce Woods Provincial Park. The aerial application resulted in good budworm population suppression and foliage protection.

The Dutch Elm Disease (DED) Program

There were 5,606 elms marked for removal in 37 cost-share communities and in the buffer zones around Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Dauphin and Virden in 2009. High levels of DED persist along rivers, especially the Red, Assiniboine, Boyne (near Carman) and Souris Rivers. As of March 31, 2010, 6,080 elms were removed under the program. Removals should be completed by the end of spring.

The Rapid Removal DED Research Project conducted by the Department of Entomology, University of Manitoba completed its fourth season in 2009. The objectives of this project are to investigate the potential benefits of early removal of diseased elms to DED management and to find an environmentally friendlier alternative for the pesticide currently used to control native elm bark beetles. This project is a collaboration between the City of Winnipeg, Trees Winnipeg (Coalition to Save the Elms), Manitoba Conservation and the University of Manitoba (project lead).

Invasive Forest Pests Programs

The Forest Health Protection Act was proclaimed on April 23, 2009. The purpose of this new legislation is to protect Manitoba's urban, rural and commercial forests from invasive pests by giving the province the ability to prevent the importation of invasive forest pests into Manitoba and to control or eradicate existing infestations. The new Act includes two Regulations. The *Arborists Regulation* (86/2009) is a revised regulation for the licensing of Manitoba tree care workers. The *Forest Health Protection Regulation*

(87/2009) includes general provisions on the movement and treatment of host tree material toprevent the spread of invasive pests, and it contains provisions to manage Dutch elm disease.

The Forest Health and Renewal Section conducted a publicly supported aerial application program to eradicate Gypsy moth, an invasive forest pest, from two areas immediately south of the City of Winnipeg. In June 2009, 700 hectares were treated with the biological insecticide Foray 48B, a formulation containing *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (Btk)*. Monitoring for Gypsy moth life stages was conducted in 2009, and will continue in 2010 to confirm effectiveness of this eradication program. Ths pest had threatened the viability of the many nurseries in the area

The expanded monitoring program for the banded elm bark beetle, another invasive forest pest, trapped nine adults in two provincial locations in 2009. Monitoring for this pest continues.

For invasive forest pest prevention, Forest Health and Renewal established two more firewood collecting bins along the Saskatchewan border, one at Highway 5 and the other at Highway 16. These bins, along with informative highway signs, warn the public that by transporting firewood they may be spreading invasive alien forest pests. Over 100 pieces of wood were collected from the bins along the Trans-Canada Highway.

As part of the National Forest Pest Strategy, Forest Health and Renewal completed an ash tree inventory in urban, agricultural, river bottom and boreal forests. The purpose was to determine the spatial distribution, mensuration and value of the ash tree resources for contribution to a Pest Risk Analysis that can be utilized nationally and to quantify the potential impact of emerald ash borer in the Prairie Provinces

The Forest Renewal Program

The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC), comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians, continued its work of exchanging ideas and solutions and providing technology transfer. The MbSTC is presently reviewing hardwood renewal standards and investigating procedures to identify blocks that would be exempt from meeting regeneration and free-to-grow standards MbSTC is also preparing protocols for conducting aerial regeneration surveys of hardwood and softwood renewal blocks.

The Forest Health and Renewal Section tested Forestry Branch, contract and company surveyors, and Regeneration Surveyor Licenses were issued to qualified individuals. A successful re-certification program was continued for surveyors who were licensed the preceding year. An audit ofsurveys and check surveys done by Tembec and the Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company wa completed. The Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company and Tembec were issued a Certificate of Reforestation for successful forest renewal.

Regeneration surveys to determine the success of forest renewal were performed on 6,60494 hectares. The Forestry Branch surveyed 2,455.14 hectares. Licensed regeneration surveyors from the Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company surveyed 675.6 hectares, Tembec surveyed 1,964.06 hectares and LP surveyed 1,510.14 hectares. Free to Grow surveys were performed on a total of 4,542.6 hectares of softwood-dominated forest stands to determine if they are developing appropriately (i.e surpassing competing tree species in height within 14-20 years of age). Two techniques were used, intensive and extensive. The Forestry Branch used the intensive survey technique on 1,046.3 hectres and the extensive technique on 761.6 hectares for a total of 1,807.9 hectares. Tembec used the intnsive survey technique on 1,641.18 hectares and the extensive technique on 1,093.57 hectares for a totl of 2,734.75 hectares.

The Forestry Branch and industry carried out forest renewal treatments on 8,438 hectaresincluding re-treatments. Most of the area was planted with approximately 11.5 million trees that wre delivered through regular tendered contracts and some negotiated contracts with First Nation companies. Scarification was used to promote natural regeneration on 2,029 hectares.

Of the estimated 10,697 hectares of softwoods harvested in 2008/09, 77 per cent (8,254 ha) were treated for reforestation in 2009/10. The rest was left to regenerate naturally or will be planted or otherwise treated in the future. The majority of hardwood areas harvested were left to regenerate naturally because poplar regenerates readily from root suckering. About 185 hectares of harvested area that had not been restocked sufficiently were re-treated by planting.

The Trees for Tomorrow Program

Through the Trees for Tomorrow program, the province and its partners will plant one million trees per year for five years. The program, which is part of Manitoba's Beyond Kyoto Climate Change initiative, started in April 2008, and will be completed in 2012. By the end of 2009/10, 1.06 million trees – mostly conifers and hybrid poplars, had been planted with another 2.0 million scheduled to be planted in 2010/11. A total of 342,132 hybrid poplar and 453,626 conifers were either planted or given away in 2009, for a total of 796,758 seedlings.

The program intends to involve the public and all levels of government in a co-ordinated program of public and private tree planting throughout Manitoba. School groups, municipal and First Nations governments and large and small scale landowners will be involved. In addition to distributing free trees, the program seeks to provide forestry conservation education and learning opportunities, as well as assistance to non-government groups, Conservation Districts, youth groups and schools. Manitoba Conservation and its delivery partner, the Manitoba Forestry Association, will deliver much of the planting effort.

The Tree Improvement Program

There are currently 14 seed orchards (62.9 hectares - over 175,000 trees) and 27 family tests (83.3 hectares – over 191,000 trees) across the province. Improved jack pine seed is available for the Southeast, Interlake and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved white spruce seed is available for the Mountain and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved black spruce seed is available for the Lake Winnipeg East, Saskatchewan River, Nelson River, Interlake and Southeast breeding zones. Genetically improved jack pine and black spruce will be available from other breeding zones in the future.

Cone crops were collected from the Birds Hill white spruce seed orchard - 18.8 hectoliters (Mountain Breeding Zone), Hillside jack pine seed orchard – 14.6 hectoliters (Southeast Breeding Zone), Cranberry jack pine seed orchard - 1.9 hectoliters (Northern Breeding Zone), Reader Lake white spruce seed orchard – 23.1 hectoliters (Saskatchewan River Breeding Zone) that will provide improved seed for reforestation for several years in these zones. Management continued on seed orchards and family tests were maintained as required. General seed collections were also conducted for black spruce in the Saskatchewan River seed zone – 5 hectolitres and white spruce in the Southeast seed zone – 9.5 hectoliters.

Table FO.1
Forest Renewal Activities

	Manitoba Conservation	Tembec	Tolko Manitoba	MFSRC *	Total
Area Treated (hectares)	1,984	804	4,091	1,374	8,253
Area Retreated (hectares)	111	44	30	0	185
Total Treated Areas	2,095	848	4,121	1,374	8,438
Total Trees Planted (1000s)	4,321	797	4,775	2,716	12,609
Total Area Site Prepared for Renewal Treatment (hectares)	1,043	256	616	111	2,026

Total Area Tended (hectares)	17	50	10	6	83
General Cone Collections	9.5		5.0	0	
Seed Orchard Co-op Collections (hectolitres)	16.5		23.1	18.8	72.9

* Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company

Forest Management and Development

The Forest Management and Development Section provides direction in five areas to regional forestry staff and forestry companies in Manitoba with the vision of sustainably managing Manitoba's forest resource in the best interest of the forest and the people of Manitoba.

Timber Administration

- Administer timber management effectively and efficiently
- Provide cutting authority, monitor harvest volumes and collect timber sale revenue
- Establish, communicate and collect timber dues along with other fees and charges

Forest Management Planning and Forest Practices

- Ensure forest management planning is comprehensive and appropriate
- Develop guidelines for forest management planning
- Promote environmentally sustainable and economical forestry practices
- Monitor forestry operations with regional Conservation counterparts
- Maintain existing, and develop new, Forest Management Licence Agreements

Wood Measurement

- Ensure Manitoba scaling methods are consistent with national standards
- Ensure that all Crown timber harvested in Manitoba is accurately measured and tracked
- Provide training, licensing and monitoring of industry wood measurement programs
- Track the movement of Crown timber from forests to mill destinations

Legislation and Policy

- Ensure that forestry activities are properly authorized
- Maintain *The Forest Act*, Regulations and forestry policies

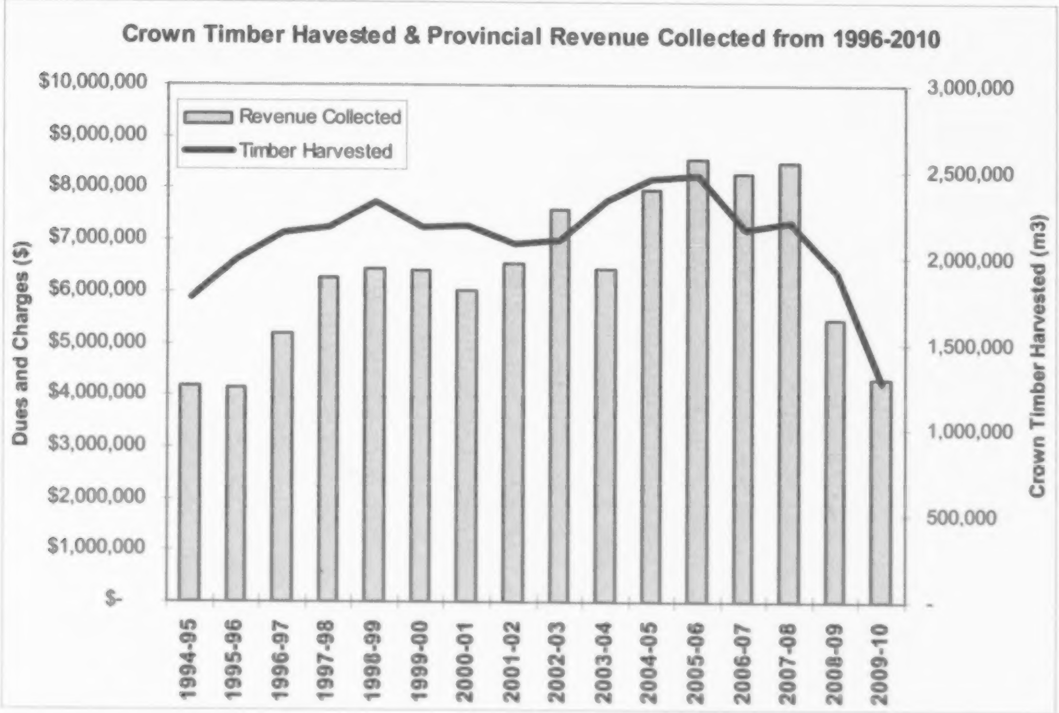
Key Results Achieved:

Timber Administration

The U.S. housing slowdown and reduced global demand for forest products in 2009/10 continued to weaken commodity prices, and as a result, less timber was harvested in Manitoba and throughout Canada. Manitoba's monthly timber pricing system, implemented on April 1, 2008, was refined for 2009/10. The system continued to respond quickly to forest product commodities with timber dues rising and falling with the market. In 2009/10 dues remained near or at the base rate.

In total, 1,273,193 m^3 of Crown timber was harvested and/or delivered in Manitoba and $4,064,448 in revenue was collected from timber dues and charges in 2009/10. Both the volume of timber harvested and revenue collected has been severely affected by the depressed markets for the past four years (figure 6 below).

Figure 5



In spite of the market down turn, this section issued, administered, tracked and monitored:

- Over 2500 licences and permits related to the harvest of Crown timber or for working in Manitoba's Provincial Forests.
- 78,000 load slips (distributed to track each truck load of timber shipped)

A new computer system called TREES (Timber Resource Evaluation System) was implemented in 2009/10. TREES was acquired from the government of Ontario and is used to track all timber cutting authorities, the timber harvested and scaled, as well as the revenue invoiced.

Forest Management Planning and Forest Practices

Tembec, Louisiana Pacific and the Mountain Quota Holders Association all submitted annual operating plans for 2009/10, which were approved by Manitoba Conservation. Tolko's annual operating plan was approved in January 2010. Annual meetings were held with each licensee, and Annual Reports were reviewed.

The Forest Practices Committee, comprised of representatives from other branches and departments of the Government of Manitoba and the forest industry, continued to develop guidelines for forestry practices. Conservation published the *Forest Management Guidelines for Terrestrial Buffers* and *Protection of Softwood Understory*, which can be found on the internet at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry/practices/guidelines.html.

The committee continues to work on the *Forest Health Guidebook*, the *Annual Report Submission Guidebook*, the *Protection of Softwood Understory Guidebook*, *Manitoba's Submission Guideline for Forest Management Plans* and the *Landscape Design Guidebook*.

Wood Measurement

A Manitoba issued scaling licence is required for the measurement of Crown timber harvested in Manitoba. A five-day scaler's license training course was held in The Pas in April, 2009. Seven candidates completed the course.

Licensed scalers are also required to complete a mandatory license refresher course every five years. One three-day refresher course was held in The Pas in April 2009, with seven candidates attending the course

To support the new timber administration system, Manitoba Conservation continued the measurement program initiated in 2007 to determine acceptable deductions for cull, defect and undersize material for timber received at Manitoba mills or exported out of province.

Legislation and Policy

On June 11, 2009, amendments to *The Forest Act* received Royal Assent by the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. Major amendments made to the Act include changes to improve the department's ability to track timber harvesting and movement, increased enforcement abilities, stronger penalties and restrictions on commercial logging in all provincial parks, except Duck Mountain.

Under the 2006 Canada – United States Softwood Lumber Agreement, Manitoba Forestry Branch participates in discussions with the federal government and other provinces and continues to provide quarterly notifications to Canada and the U.S. as required under the Agreement.

Sustainable Forestry Unit

The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) promotes economic development through the forest industry. During the reporting year, the SFU's role in Crown consultation continued to expand as the SFU provided support and advice to regional staff and other departments. The SFU promotes a sustainable development approach to Manitoba's forests, with a priority focus on economic diversification, Aboriginal participation and co-ordination between departments.

The SFU works closely with the other sections within Forestry Branch to ensure co-ordination on issues, such as wood supply, fiber quality, forest management, wood tenure, etc. The Unit is working to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fiber usage and environmentally responsible forest management practices.

As a cross-departmental unit, the SFU is charged with developing a sustainable and diversified strategy for Manitoba's forests by focusing on the following areas:

1. encouraging Aboriginal forestry development, including (a) resource co-management, (b) business ownership and (c) economic development (training, employment, etc.)
2. increasing value-added processing in the forest sector (including timber and non-timber forest products)
3. fostering interaction between primary and secondary industry

Key Results Achieved

Forintek Canada Corp., a division of FPInnovations, is a not-for-profit wood products research organization. In 2009-10, Forintek continued to provide industry expertise through workshops, plant visits and technical inquiries. This program was funded through 2010, under a federal-provincial agreement. Forintek continued to have two secondary forest products industry advisors based in Winnipeg. The continued focus of the program is to assist in industry diversification and competitiveness.

FERIC, also a division of FPInnovations, received federal-provincial funding in 2007, to establish a Forest Innovation Liaison Officer (FILO) position in Manitoba. FERIC specializes in areas of research related to the harvesting of wood, transportation and forest road construction and silviculture.

FERIC continues the multi-year "Manitoba Forest Industry Transportation Study" involving Central Tire Inflation technology to be completed in 2010-11. Working in partnership with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation, this study will lead to transportation insights and could lead to increased efficiencies for the trucking industry.

The SFU assisted the Northwest and Northeast regions in their Crown consultation process for the Tolko Annual Operating Plan (AOP). SFU continued Crown consultation activities with regard to the LP long-term Forest Management Plan (FMP).

The SFU continued to work with communities in various parts of the province that were interested in developing forestry-based businesses, such as saw mills or log home building establishments. Much of the work focused on providing business contacts and advice.

Table FO.2
12.3(d) Forestry

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,225	55.56	5,221	4	
Other Expenditures	8,817		6,779	2,038	1.
Grant Assistance	23		23	0	
Forest Regeneration Stock	963		1,001	(38)	
Less: Recoverable from Urban and Rural Initiatives	(1,160)		(1,325)	165	
Total 12.3(d)	**13,868**	**55.56**	**11,699**	**2,169**	

1. Over expenditure in other expenditures is mainly due to liability provision for removal of land from Forest Management Licence areas.

Pineland Forest Nursery

Pineland Forest Nursery issues its own Annual Report with information on its mandate and operations. Copies can be obtained from the General Manager at Box 45, Hadashville, Manitoba ROE 0X0. The General Manager can be contacted at 204-426-5235 or toll free or by fax at 204-426-2106. The Pineland Forest Nursery's web site is www.pinelandforestnursery.com .

Habitat Enhancement Fund

The Fund provided a grant to Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation in support of the co-operative Critical Wildlife Habitat Program. The grant funds stewardship initiatives targeted at habitat conservation activities, including mixed-grass prairie inventories, mixed-grass prairie grazing management, tall-grass prairie monitoring and management, other land-management activities on program lands, and extension initiatives. It is used to provide some of the provincial match required for Federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk allocations for Manitoba projects.

Table HE.1

12.3(e) Habitat Enhancement Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	60	0.00	60	0	
Total 12.3(e)	**60**	**0.00**	**60**	**0**	

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

The Branch manages wildlife resources to conserve biological diversity, including species and ecosystems within the context of the principles of sustainable development. It protects and enhances habitat on Crown and private lands and monitors the effects of industrial emissions and land use on ecosystems. Resources are allocated to maximize long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. The Branch co-operates with a wide range of clients and groups to promote conservation and to realize optimum benefits from interaction with wildlife. It represents wildlife interests in departmental, provincial, national, and international initiatives for biodiversity, species at risk, migratory wildlife, game and fur species, problem wildlife, protected spaces, conservation, sustainable development, and federal-provincial harmonization. The Branch ensures that wildlife programs reflect the cultural, subsistence, social, and economic values of Manitobans, consistent with policy, procedure and legislation.

Key activities include:

Administration

Grants were made to the:

- Churchill Northern Studies Centre (local research on wildlife and resource management)
- Manitoba Trappers Association (trapper education and involvement in fur management)
- Fur Institute of Canada (humane trap development and public information)
- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Critical Wildlife Habitat Program)
- Wildlife Habitat Canada (annual contribution toward the operation of the Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee)
- Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre
- Manitoba Wildlife Federation (Hunter Education Program)
- Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre

The branch participates in various local, national, and international wildlife initiatives: Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee, Arctic Goose Joint Venture, Canadian Polar Bear Administrative Committee, Mississippi Flyway Council, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Watchable Wildlife Program, Wildlife Habitat Canada and Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, and a variety of national committees on species at risk, such as the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch Web Site

The branch web site (www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife) continues to be an important tool to provide Manitobans with wildlife and habitat-related information and resources. Through the web, the branch is able to provide an overview of the mandate of the branch, information about branch programs, contact information, and information on current issues.

General Extension

During 2009/10, displays at Provincial Hunting Day, Manitoba Grazing School, Manitoba Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference and the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair were supported by Manitoba Conservation staff.

Staff also attended the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association Annual General Meeting.

Staff continued to contribute to the Manitoba Envirothon, an environmental education program for high school students (Grades 9-12).

Provincial Hunting Day

In September 2009, Manitoba proclaimed the fourth Saturday in September as the Provincial Hunting Day. A celebration was held on September 26, 2009 at Whittier Park in Winnipeg to recognize the contributions of hunting to Manitoba. Over 300 people attended the event.

Legislation

Approximately 15 amending regulations were registered to adjust nine ministerial regulations and six order-in-council regulations under *The Wildlife Act*. Some of the amendments were required to facilitate regular annual updates to hunting and trapping season opening and closing dates. However, these amendments also included changes such as the following:

- Closed GHA 36 to moose hunting as populations have decreased significantly in the area.
- Included new use restrictions in the new wildlife management areas designated.
- Increased the number of GHAs where the requirement to submit biological data for testing of Bovine Tuberculosis and Chronic Wasting Disease currently exists.

The six Order-in-Council regulation amendments under *The Wildlife Act* that were registered:

- The establishment of 3 new wildlife management areas; the renaming and increase in size of an existing one; and the correction of the boundary of an existing one.
- The new WMA's in the southern part of the province include Observation Point WMA and Whitemouth Bog WMA. In the north, Kaskatmagan Sipi WMA was created and Cape Tatnam WMA was increased in size and is now called Kaskatamagan WMA. Total area added is 402,370 hectares.

Wildlife Permits

The Branch administers permits and licences required under *The Wildlife Act* and *The Endangered Species Act*. Permits issued are various including (but not limited to) import and export permits, scientific research permits, possession permits and wildlife management area use permits.

Permit numbers are listed in Table WI.1

Table WI.1

Wildlife Permits Issued, 2009

Provincial Permits	
Amphibian and Reptiles	1
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (educational)	7
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (personal)	127
Applications Denied (dead wild animal)	8
Disabled Hunter Permit (permanent)	61
Crossbow permits	52
Disabled Hunter Permit (discharge firearm)	3
Disabled Hunter Permit (revoked)	0
Applications Denied (disabled hunter)	13
Dog Trainer's Licence (non-resident)	2
Dog Training Club Licence	3
Exotic Animal Import Permit	0
Field Trial Permit	0
Live Exotic Animal Possession Permit	0
Live Wild Animal Possession Permit	9
Power Boat in Marsh Permit	1
Serve Meat of Wild Animal Permit	3
Species At Risk Permit	3

Table WI.1

Wildlife Permits Issued, 2009

Provincial Permits	
Use Vehicle Off Designated Route Permit	0
Wild Animal Capture Permit	4
Wild Animal Export Permit	1,071
Wild Animal Import Permit	12
Wild Animal Kill Permit	1
Wild Animal Part Dealer Permit	34
Wildlife Farm Licence	1
Wildlife Management Area Use Permit	35
Wildlife Scientific Permit	13
Game Bird Farm Licence	5
Game Bird Shooting Preserve Licence	0
Taxidermist Licence	62
Tanner's Licence	7
Total (Provincial Permits):	**1,733**
Guide Licences	1,283
Hunter Education Certificates	1,246
Hunter Education Certificates (denied)	86

Game, Fur and Problem Wildlife Management

Hunting is an important part of Manitoba's rich natural heritage. Manitoba Conservation is committed to: providing hunting opportunities for all Manitobans; ensuring that hunting has a positive future in the province; and exploring new and expanded hunting opportunities for Manitoba hunters and the non-resident hunting industry.

Conservation is the first priority of wildlife management and the second priority is to protect or ensure Aboriginal rights of harvest. When additional hunting opportunities are sustainable, and stakeholder consultation has occurred, seasons may be introduced as part of the department's annual process of reviewing hunting regulations.

The following changes to the hunting program were introduced in 2009/10.

- Sunday hunting for big game hunting was expanded to include all Game Hunting Areas (GHAs);
- The requirement for an adult to mentor a youth was changed so that a youth can be accompanied by an adult who possesses any valid current year hunting licence or proof of graduation from a hunter education course;
- All GHA 36 moose seasons were cancelled as a conservation measure;
- The winter conservation moose season in GHA 21 was returned to the Big Game Draw;
- The second deer licence was no longer available in GHAs 13, 13A, 18 to 18C, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29, 29A, 30 and 31A; and
- Mandatory submission of biological samples for disease testing was expanded to include GHAs 5, 6, 6A, 11, 12, 13 and part 22 west of PTH 83.

Key activities include:

Waterfowl Management

Manitoba Conservation continues to be actively involved in the continental management of waterfowl, through direct delivery of programs, and formation of partnerships with non-government wildlife organizations, municipal, provincial and federal government departments, and interested individuals. Manitoba Conservation is influential in waterfowl management decisions at both regional (Prairie Canada) and international scales. The Province's interests are represented annually at Mississippi Flyway Technical Section meetings and at the Prairie Canada Technical Committee meeting. Representation at both levels is important because changes to hunting regulations affect hunting opportunities, resident and non-resident hunter numbers, and waterfowl populations.

Environment Canada amended the *Migratory Birds Regulations* such that the Canadian resident Canada goose daily bag limit be increased to eight from five. Additional proposed amendments include an increase in the possession limit for all migratory birds to three times the daily bag limit (except for white geese which will remain at four times the daily bag), and the standardization of foreign resident waterfowl season opening dates in Game Bird Hunting Zones 3 and 4 (September 17 for white geese, and September 24 for all other migratory game birds). The above proposals were published by Environment Canada and these and other hunting regulations will be described in the report *Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada* in July 2010.

Manitoba Conservation staff continue to manage Nester One camp near Cape Churchill, and coordinate monitoring of the Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) of Canada geese, which nest in the lowlands of Hudson Bay. The work is primarily funded by Manitoba Conservation (through financial support and in-kind contributions), states of the Mississippi Flyway, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Parks Canada provides considerable contributions of staff time and logistical support. Substantial improvements to Nester One infrastructure occurred in 2009, funded by a grant obtained from the Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund (through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada). The camp is vital to EPP population monitoring activities, but also provides in-kind support (accommodation) to Parks Canada, and numerous researchers and university students working in the area.

In 2009, Manitoba Conservation staff and Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) staff partnered to re-initiate Giant Canada goose banding program throughout southern Manitoba. This work will contribute information about the timing of harvest and distribution of birds throughout the flyway, and the effect of the proposed increased bag limit. Nearly 1,500 geese were banded at six sites in 2009.

Manitoba Conservation is an active as a member of the Manitoba Mentored Hunt Partnership, with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation Canada. In 2009, 12 mentored waterfowl hunts took place across the province (in addition to several mentored deer hunts), introducing hundreds of new people to safe and ethical hunting practices.

Manitoba Conservation staff chair the Manitoba Game Bird Partnership, which consists of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, and Manitoba Lodges and Outfitter Association. The partnership meets on an "as need" basis and works to achieve balance between resident and non-resident opportunity by developing suggestions for regulation change or amendment. The partnership was instrumental developing the above proposals to amend the *Migratory Birds Regulations*.

Non-migratory Game Bird Management

Preservation of grassland habitat and advancement of sustainable agriculture practices (e.g., winter cereals, zero-tillage, delayed haying) continued to be important to the long-term stability of upland game bird populations in Manitoba, especially for Sharp-tailed Grouse and Gray Partridge. Although few structured surveys are conducted for upland game birds in Manitoba, anecdotal evidence suggests the distribution of grouse remains widespread across the province, and at levels that provide good hunting and viewing opportunity. Maintenance of large tracts of habitat (provincial WMAs, Community Pastures, NCC land, DUC land) is extremely beneficial to upland game bird populations.

Wild turkeys continue to be abundant in southern Manitoba, although inclement weather during the nesting and brood rearing period in 2008 and 2009 has probably temporarily depressed the population. Wild turkey hunter numbers have remained stable since recent increases in license sales; however, numbers of youth hunters have remained low despite incentives like a reduced licence fee. In June 2010, Manitoba Conservation will be implementing a special youth only spring wild turkey season. This special season will open one week prior to the regular season, and will provide more opportunity for experienced wild turkey hunters to take youth along.

Information about 2009 wild turkey harvests and hunter opinions were obtained through a mail-out survey. Manitoba Conservation continues to work closely with Wild Gobblers Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation Canada (NWTFC) and affiliate clubs of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF) to establish new flocks of wild turkeys in areas of appropriate habitat. Cattle producers throughout the province continue to act as excellent stewards for wild turkeys, and are extremely tolerant of the birds, especially when receiving help from volunteers and funding assistance for interceptor feeding.

Recent increasing interest in wild turkeys motivated development of a mark-recapture program in 2009 which aims to monitor harvest and survival rates and estimate dispersal distance of birds from wintering areas. Manitoba Conservation received support and assistance from NWTFC, the MWF, and several of its affiliate clubs. The pilot year of the program was successfully completed, with efforts at 5 trapping locations resulting in 132 birds banded. Based on this trapping success, a larger effort is planned for the nest field season

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and other protected and managed habitats remain as important as ever to waterfowl, upland game birds, and wild turkeys for their productive value and as refuge throughout the year. Their role in providing accessible areas for the public to view and hunt all game birds contributes to the continued understanding, appreciation and ultimately conservation of these resources.

White-tailed Deer

- Province-wide, the white-tailed deer population has declined. However, in some areas deer numbers remain high, generally in areas of high-quality deer habitat where supplemental feeding occurs and hunting is not allowed. Deer densities were moderate in much of the southern half of the province. The Second Deer Licence was removed in the western area including the following Game Hunting Areas 13, 13A, 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29, 29A, 30 and 31 in Deer Hunting Zones B, D, and E.

Black Bear

- The black bear population in Manitoba is considered to be stable to growing at between 25,000 and 35,000 animals. Current harvest levels (six to eight per cent of the total population) are sustainable (3,275 hunters, 1,825 bears). Total licence sales have steadily declined since 2007, about 10 per cent overall.

Moose

- Moose populations remain low in the Turtle Mountain, Interlake, Whiteshell, Duck Mountain and GHA 26 areas, due, in part, to the slow recovery of these populations from losses to winter tick infestations in the west and to increased access created by expanding forest extraction activities and the creation of resource roads and trails in some areas. The moose population in Riding Mountain continues to increase. Recent aerial surveys have confirmed that moose populations in GHAs 21 and 36 are low. Moose populations in other areas of the province seem stable, although below carrying capacity. Licence sales have been declining since 2006/2007, about 12 per cent overall.

Elk

- Province-wide, the elk population is stable and is estimated at 6,500 animals. The Duck Mountain herd remains stable at approximately 1,700 animals and the Porcupine Mountain herds remain stable at approximately 300 animals. The Spruce Woods population remains at approximately 600 animals. The South Interlake elk population is at approximately 1,000 animals. The Riding Mountain area population is estimated at approximately 2,000 animals.
- In 2009/10, a total of 2,718 elk licences were sold for resident rifle, archery, and landowner seasons.

Caribou

- The Qamanirjuaq barren-ground caribou population is estimated at approximately 345,000 (±46,000 animals), a decrease from 1994 when 495,000 animals were estimated. This caribou population is hunted by First Nations in Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Manitoba, and licenced resident, non-resident and foreign resident hunters in the three jurisdictions. The Beverly & Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board remains very active and provides significant contributions to the management of both herds. In Manitoba, resident caribou licences are available for GHAs 1, 2 and 3 and can only be purchased at Manitoba Conservation offices in Churchill, Gillam, Leaf Rapids, Lynn Lake, The Pas, Thompson and Winnipeg. In 2009/10, a total of 746 resident licences and 234 special allocation non-resident/foreign resident licences were sold.

Gray Wolf

- Wolves are common throughout forested and tundra habitats and are becoming increasingly common along the fringes of agricultural areas. Most wolf harvest is incidental while hunters are hunting for other big game species. It is estimated that fewer than 100 wolves are killed annually by hunters.

Diseases in Wildlife

- Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Parks Canada Agency (PCA), and Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the main program partners, prepare an annual Implementation Plan for Bovine TB Management in Manitoba, detailing surveillance, scientific studies to understand disease dynamics, disease containment, and eradication. Collectively, the agencies form the Bovine TB Task Group and review past work and plan for future endeavours.

- Over 11,450 elk and deer samples have been examined in the Riding and Duck Mountain areas between 1997 and 2009. In these areas, all elk and deer hunters are required to submit biological samples for disease testing, and PCA conducts annual live-capture and blood testing of elk and deer within Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP). In 2009, one hunter-submitted white-tailed deer and one hunter-submitted elk tested positive for bovine TB.

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease affecting the deer family (cervids), including elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer and moose. This disease has been found in captive and wild deer and elk in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and several states. Despite management and containment efforts, the disease is expanding in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Department remains vigilant in efforts to prevent the disease from spreading into the province and continues to monitor and consult with jurisdictions that have the disease, regarding research, management activities and control practices.

- All hunter harvested deer and elk in GHAs 5, 6, 6A, 11, 12, 13, 13A, 18, 18A, and part of 22 (west of PTH 83) must be submitted to Manitoba Conservation for CWD testing. A couple of local businesses have agreed to support this program by accepting biological samples from hunters. To date, CWD has not been detected in Manitoba's wild or captive cervids. Containment efforts in Saskatchewan and Alberta were monitored.

Foreign resident Hunting Licence Allocation Program

In 2009 some 1,600 bear licences, 800 foreign resident deer licences, 230 non-resident/foreign resident caribou licences, and 150 moose licences were purchased by foreign resident hunters.

Big Game Monitoring

The dynamics of some big game populations are evaluated annually to provide input to decisions on hunting seasons and other management tasks. There are three main categories of information, gathered through the following activities:

- Winter aerial surveys of some populations to estimate abundance, sex and age composition, recruitment and distribution.
- Hunter questionnaires to estimate harvests, hunter effort and hunter distribution.
- Some biological specimen collection to assess age and reproductive status.

All data are entered into computer simulations (models) to estimate the consequences of alternative management options.

Aerial Surveys

- In 2009/10, the aerial survey program focused on population estimates for the following big game species and areas: moose in GHAs 18, 18A, 18B and 18C; moose in GHAs 13 and 13A; moose in GHA 26; coastal caribou in GHA 3; white-tailed deer in GHAs 6 and 6A; and white-tailed deer in the Killarney area.

- Killarney area - white-tailed deer. A total count survey to determine the population and location of white-tailed deer in the Killarney area was conducted on February 16, 2010. The survey was conducted because of an increase in the number of deer in town and in the immediate surrounding area (8 km radius) and an increase in resident complaints regarding deer damage. An area of 80 km^2 was surveyed producing a population estimate of 805 white-tailed deer, with 183 deer found within the Killarney town limits.

Biological Specimen Collection

- Hunters are required to submit teeth and reproductive tracts from harvested female black bears. These samples provide information on the reproductive status and potential orphaning rate of harvested females. Typically, samples are obtained from about 65 per cent of the annual estimated female bears harvested. Analysis of the 2007, 2008 and 2009 samples is ongoing.

Hunter Questionnaires, Big Game Seasons

- In 2009/10, the Big Game Hunter Questionnaire Program contacted 29,554 big game hunters to obtain information about big game harvest and hunting effort in Manitoba. Draw licence holders (3,804) received a personalized questionnaire in the mail.

- Non-draw licence holders (25,750) received a postcard in the mail requesting they complete the questionnaire online (www.manitoba.ca/huntsurvey).

- A toll-free answering service (1-877-892-7627) was established for participants who do not have internet access to complete the questionnaire. As of June 7, 2009, approximately 400 hunters have participated in the questionnaire program over the phone.

Table WI.2

Hunting Licences Sold 2009/10

Type of Licence	Fee $	Number Sold	Revenue $
Game Bird			
Resident	20.95	10,861	217,274
Non-resident	79.05	737	57,605
Foreign resident	147.62	4,236	620,758
Wild Turkey			
Resident	21.90	1,066	22,408
Resident – Youth	4.76	82	320
Moose			
Resident	49.52	4,243	207,394
Resident – Conservation	79.05	146	11,307
Non-resident	284.76	13	3,699
Foreign resident	342.86	151	51,620
Elk			
Resident	49.52	2,718	134,595
Caribou			
Resident	44.76	509	22,783
Resident – Second	98.10	282	27,664
Foreign resident / Non-resident	342.86	234	79,995
Black Bear			
Resident	29.52	1,630	46,649
Non-resident	98.10	49	4,790
Foreign resident	205.71	1,593	327,648
Deer			
Resident	34.29	42,499	1,415,982
Resident – Second	20.00	5,725	108,969
Resident – Third	20.00	193	3,679
Non-resident	147.62	777	114,169
Foreign resident	206.67	800	164,538
Youth Hunting Licence Package			
Resident	9.52	3,337	28,547
Total Licence Sales			
Resident		73,291	2,247,571
Non-resident		1,576	180,263
Non-resident Alien		7,014	1,244,559
Replacement	10.00	112	1,120
Grand Total		**81,993**	**$3,673,513**

Notes:

1. Statistics are as reported by March 31, 2010.
2. Revenue figures are net (less vendor's commission).
3. Non-resident Caribou licences, valid for both Canadian and non-Canadian hunters, are included with the Non-resident Alien totals.
4. Resident Conservation Moose licences are issued as a 2 Licence/1 tag package (298 licences = 149 packages).
5. A Youth Turkey hunting licence for residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.
6. A Third Deer hunting licence for Residents of Manitoba was introduced in 2003/04.

Table WI.3

Wildlife Licence Revenue 2009/10

Type of Licence	Revenue $
Hunting Licences	
Game Bird Licences	895,637
Wild Turkey Licences	22,728
Moose Licences	274,020
Elk Licences	134,595
Caribou Licences	130,442
Black Bear Licences	379,087
Deer Licences	1,807,337
Youth Hunting Licence Package	28,547
Replacement Licences	1,120
Total – Hunting	**$3,673,513**
Commercial Licences	
Trapper Licences *	33,338
Fur Dealer Licences *	1,650
Amphibian Picker Licences	104
Total – Commercial	**$35,092**
Total Revenue	**$3,708,605**

* Reflects revenue for the 2008/09 Fur Year ending August 31, 2009 as reported by March 31, 2010. Other revenue is for the 2009/10 Licensing Year as reported by March 31, 2010.

Problem Wildlife

The expanded Problem Beaver Management Program, consisting of the summer removal, winter subsidy and non-lethal components, was implemented for the eighth consecutive year. This program offered a subsidy of $15.00 per beaver taken from designated municipalities and then $20.00 per beaver for the winter component which included allocations to registered trapline districts. Municipalities with the greatest beaver problems are in the Western Region, specifically Mountain, Ethelbert, Grandview, Gilbert Plains, and Mossey River.

Several pond levellers were constructed for deployment in critical areas such as addressing flooded lands on Wildlife Management Areas.

Problem Predator Removal Services Program was provided to Manitoba agriculture producers and other property owners through an agreement with the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). The program provided for a licensed trapper to action a predator claim (primarily coyotes and wolves) by a producer through Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation (MASC). A total of 76 MASC claims were dealt with in 2009/10 and 43 wolves, 308 coyotes and 14 foxes were removed.

The Wildlife Crop Damage Compensation Program, administered by MASC, under Wildlife Regulation reimburses producers 80 per cent of the assessed value for wildlife damages to beehives and produce, for deer, elk and bear damage to crops and property, and for livestock loss or injuries from predators such as coyotes and wolves. In 2009/10, MASC paid for damages caused by 99 deer claims and 141 elk claims to standing crops and stored hay that amounted to $393,158, while a total of 73 black bear claims accounted for $109,700 in damage claims. The waterfowl crop damage compensation claims increased to $1,166,196 (305 claims), mostly due to increased damage by geese compared to the previous year (2008/09) when it was $856,004. Damage by black bears to leafcutter bee operations declined to $57,094 (23 claims) while damage to honey operations increased to $81,796 (68 claims).

The compensation claims under the Predator/Livestock Damage Compensation Program also administered by MASC declined to $426,740.

Manitoba entered into a three-year federal-provincial cost-shared agreement with Environment Canada to administer and deliver the Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program. This agreement insures that there will be a continuance of the program to prevent damages by waterfowl (ducks, geese and sandhill cranes) to cereal grains.

Staff from Manitoba Conservation also participates on the "Manitoba Wildlife Collision Stakeholders Committee" that includes representatives from Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. Wildlife-vehicle collisions have become a major concern. As some wildlife population numbers increase, the number of collisions is also expected to increase. The role of the committee is to facilitate discussions, and identify and develop solutions that if implemented, would reduce the number of collisions.

Staff also represent the department on the Manitoba Road Safety Coordinating Committee (MRSCC) that has been established as the central co-ordinating body to address the significant human and socio-economic costs of road-related injuries and fatalities in Manitoba. Since wildlife account for approximately 10,000 accident claims in Manitoba, the department is involved in addressing this form of accident.

Manitoba Conservation implemented the *Be Bear Smart* initiative with the goal to teach people how to reduce conflicts with black bears thereby increasing human safety and protecting private property. Throughout 2009, branch staff held Bear Smart workshops and informational displays in southern Manitoba. Approximately 200 people attended the workshops and several thousand were estimated to visit displays in Winnipeg, Brandon Ag Days, and the Brandon's Royal Manitoba Winter Fair (with over 1,500 people contacted). Support was also provided to provincial park interpreters for their Bear Smart programs, where over 4,000 people attended 67 separate events in 2009.

To further reduce the human-bear conflicts, Grand Beach Provincial Park continued to be the focus of the Bear Smart Initiative. Traditional waste collection bins were replaced within the Grand Beach Provincial Park with a bear-proof semi-automated containments and collection system. This system has been proven effective elsewhere in Canada (Riding Mountain National Park and Canmore, Alberta). By managing garbage more effectively it has been shown to reduce the number of human-bear encounters resulting in fewer bears having to be relocated or destroyed. It also improves site aesthetics and addresses other wildlife species coming into conflict with people (raccoons, ravens, skunks, etc.).

Raccoon conflicts in urban environments, particularly within the City of Winnipeg, are increasing, which will require a concerted effort to reduce urban and rural populations of raccoons. This species, in terms of the number of conflicts, has already surpassed any other species of wildlife including white-tailed deer and Canada geese. The number of occurrences continues to increase.

Manitoba Conservation (Regional Operations Division and Programs Division) began a review of the various wildlife damage prevention programs currently being delivered through various polices e.g. Problem Beaver Management Policy, Problem Black Bear Management Policy and the Polar Bear Alert Policy. The review is necessary to define Manitoba Conservation's role in wildlife damage prevention.

Furbearer Management

The program helps to sustain populations of furbearers and promotes optimum harvests and economic, social, and cultural returns to trappers and their families. Both furbearer production and the number of each species sold by trappers are monitored. The program encourages humane trapping and promotes education and public understanding of furbearer management and the fur industry.

- Marten are the most valuable furbearing species taken by trappers in Manitoba. The harvest in 2008/09 increased to 20,839 animals. This was the peak harvest for the current cycle and is expected to drop next reporting year (2009/10).

- Lynx cycles continue to recover from the very low numbers in the 1980s. The current harvest cycle reached its trough in 2007/08 with 608 lynx but jumped somewhat dramatically to 958 in 2008/09.

- Coyote harvests were down to 6,854 animals. The number of animals is still believed to be high in southern Manitoba, but dropping. Harvest peaks over the last few decades appear to be based on higher pelt prices, compared to the cyclical 10-year peaks seen in the first half of the 20th Century.

- Red fox harvest was down slightly to 1,908 in 2008/09.

- A slight increase occurred in the otter harvest, to 1,045 this year, as compared to 920 last year.

- The arctic fox harvest increased significantly, but still at overall reduced levels, with 78 animals reported in 2008/09.

- A lower average price for beaver pelts ($18.87 in 2008/09) caused the harvest to slightly drop to 13,444 animals. At the same time, populations remained relatively high in the agricultural areas, which resulted in significant problem incidents. The Problem Beaver Management Program, which subsidizes municipalities and registered trappers in certain RTL sections for problem beaver removal, is credited for keeping the harvest higher.

- Wolverine populations are still believed to be stable-to-increasing. The harvest in 2008/09 was 52 animals, over double the 25 of previous year.

- The bobcat harvest remained at typical levels, with 11 again taken in 2008/09.

- Trapping licence/permit sales reached 7,183 in 2008/09, down from 7,782 from the previous year. This figure included 172 free Youth Trapping Licences/Permits, slightly down from the 184 figure of the previous year. Trapper Education graduates aged 12 – 17 in Manitoba can obtain a no-fee Youth licence, similar to programs in other provinces. Depressed fur prices may have contributed to the decrease.
- Staff worked with the Fur Institute of Canada's Trap Research and Development Committee on humane trapping devices and manufacturing standards. The Koro Rodent trap for weasel, manufactured by Koro Traps of Ste. Anne, became the fourth Manitoba trap certified as meeting the Canada-Russia-European Union Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. All certified devices are annually listed in the Manitoba Trapping Guide.

- Considerable effort was put into education services in 2009/10 fiscal year, leading to 210 students completing the Mandatory Trapper Education exam. Workshop locations included Cross Lake, Thicket Portage, Eriksdale, Gillam, Gods Lake Narrows, Leaf Rapids, Nelson House, Norway House, Oxford House, Peguis, Pine Falls, Roblin, Ste. Rita, Tramping Lake, Wabowden, and Winnipeg (at North American Fur Auctions Winnipeg Depot).

Table WI.4
Fur Statistics, Year Ending August 31, 2009

Species	Quantity	Average Price $	Production Value $	% of Total Value	Royalty Per Pelt $	Royalty $
Badger	155	$33.64	5,214	0.3%	0.50	78
Bear		$97.00		0.0%	1.00	
Beaver	13,444	$18.87	253,671	13.1%	0.50	6722
Bobcat	11	$49.85	548	0.0%	1.00	11
Coyote	6,854	$20.58	141,021	7.3%	1.00	6854
Ermine	4,229	$3.59	15,198	0.8%	0.05	211
Fisher	1,594	$41.95	66,868	3.4%	1.00	1594
Fox, Blue	1	20.46	20	0.0%	0.50	1
Fox, Cross	127	26.98	3,427	0.2%	0.50	64
Fox, Red	1,760	18.20	32,032	1.7%	0.50	880
Fox, Silver	21	28.08	590	0.0%	0.50	11
Fox, White	77	20.46	1,576	0.1%	0.50	39
Lynx	952	$140.38	133,637	6.9%	1.00	952
Marten	20,839	$50.03	1,042,471	53.7%	1.00	20839
Mink	3,749	$13.93	52,228	2.7%	0.50	1875
Muskrat	13,477	$2.50	33,693	1.7%	0.05	674
Otter	1,045	$40.30	42,114	2.2%	0.75	784
Raccoon	2,687	$13.97	37,534	1.9%	0.50	1344
Squirrel	2,974	$1.22	3,625	0.2%	0.05	149
Wolf, Timber	443	$138.77	61,475	3.2%	1.00	443
Wolverine*	52	$276.35	14,370	0.7%	2.50	130
Total			**$1,941,312**			**$43,655**

Notes:

1. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995/96 *Annual Report*, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based on the most recent complete Fur Year. This 2009/10 Annual Report is based on information for the 2008/09 Fur Year ending August 31, 2009.

* For wolverine, royalties were collected on 55 animals, including 3 previously-accounted. As such, 52 different wolverine royalties were actually received and are reported.

Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring

Wildlife Lands Unit

The Wildlife Lands Unit develops policies, plans and programs to secure, protect and enhance wildlife habitat on Crown and private land. It is responsible for the management of lands designated for wildlife including wildlife management areas (WMAs), wildlife refuges and special conservation areas.

The Wildlife Lands Unit delivers the Heritage Marsh Program, an initiative to celebrate and better manage Manitoba's large wetland complexes. This includes land acquisition, habitat restoration, enhancement, vegetation and wildlife surveys, support for research, and the development of wildlife viewing and interpretation facilities. The Section also co-operates with the Tourism Secretariat of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism in the provision of wildlife-viewing facilities associated with the Watchable Wildlife Program.

Key activities include:

Wildlife Management Area Program

Habitat enhancement activities (e.g. control encroaching shrubs and trees on prairie sites to improve sharp-tailed grouse habitat) were carried out at various WMAs. Standard boundary signs were produced for WMAs and refuges.

Consultations were undertaken with several rural municipalities and First Nations regarding the possible establishment of new WMAs to support the Protected Areas Initiative. In northern Manitoba, the Cape Tatnam WMA was expanded and renamed Kaskatamagan at the request of local First Nations. A new WMA, Kaskatamagan Sipi, was established inland near the headwaters of the Kaskatamagan River.

Heritage Marsh Program

A multi-agency working group continued to develop a strategy to restore Delta Marsh. Support was provided to a partnership involving Ducks Unlimited Canada's Institute for Wetlands and Waterfowl Research and the University of Manitoba concerning habitat, waterfowl, fisheries and muskrats in the Saskatchewan River Delta.

Land Management and Use

Over 500 land-use proposals were reviewed to assess impacts to wildlife habitat. These included applications for general permits and leases, sales, and exchanges of Crown land, Treaty Land Entitlement and municipal development plans and zoning by-laws and amendments. Policy proposals were reviewed to evaluate impacts on wildlife, habitat, land management, and use.

Habitat Stewardship Unit

The Habitat Stewardship Unit is responsible for development and management of provincial projects for the federal/provincial habitat stewardship programs including Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk and management of the Agro-Manitoba Critical Wildlife Habitat Program. This program is cost-shared with Manitoba Conservation, the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and a variety of other agencies, which are involved on a project specific basis. The Critical Wildlife Habitat Program goal is to identify, preserve and manage remaining critical habitats, especially native grasslands and habitats of unique, rare and endangered species. This Unit also provides the link between the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and MHHC in the delivery of habitat enhancement and protection programs.

Key activities include:

Habitat Stewardship

In 2009/10 $854,000 in federal funding was received for projects in Manitoba with $730,000 of that going to joint Manitoba Conservation - Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation projects. Matching funds and in-kind contributions totalling $1,046,000 were provided by the province, conservation agencies, industry, and community groups in support of habitat stewardship projects.

Critical Wildlife Habitat Program funds provide a portion of the provincial cash match for federal Habitat Stewardship Program projects.

Tall Grass Prairie Preserve

The Department continued to chair the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Committee in 2009/10. Other agencies actively involved in the preserve include the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, the Manitoba Naturalists Society, Environment Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The committee produced an annual work plan for field activities at the preserve and the Department funded some of the delivery costs. Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Manitoba Naturalists Society supported monitoring and management activities on the Preserve. The committee directs ongoing monitoring and management activities for the properties belonging to Preserve partners or under conservation agreement.

This year marked the eleventh season of banding since the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Program (MAPS) was started at the Preserve in 1996. During the 2009 field season, 5 mornings were spent operating a series of 10 mist nets. Among the 140 netted birds there were 120 newly banded, 4 unbanded and 24 recaptures. Clay-colored sparrow, common yellowthroat and yellow warbler were the most frequently captured species among the 22 species handled during this season. Song-bird surveys were completed and 32 species were recorded. A total of 55 sharp-tailed grouse were flushed from eight active leks in 2009

Four new properties (560 acres in total) acquired recently by the Nature Conservancy of Canada were inventoried in 2009/10 and the vegetation was mapped. Great Plains' ladies-tresses and Western Prairie Fringed-orchids were found on three of the four properties.

Approximately 50 patches of leafy spurge (an invasive alien plant) were visited in June and any plants found were pulled out. Aspen encroachment on five properties was controlled by girdled and killing the trees.

The Preserve Management Committee issued five grazing agreements on 12 quarter sections of Preserve land totalling 1,920 acres in 2009. At the end of the grazing season the condition of all grazed properties were assessed to document the impacts of grazing activities so that adjustments could be made to livestock numbers and grazing duration if necessary. Ongoing vegetation monitoring was carried out at two grazing project sites to determine the effects of grazing on the tall grass prairie ecosystem, especially potential impacts on species at risk.

The Preserve is becoming well-known for research opportunities from various universities and organizations. In 2009/10, two research projects were conducted on Preserve lands, one study on Poweshiek skippers was in its second year and a new study on small white lady's-slippers was started. Preserve botanist also delivered the Manitoba Naturalists Society School Program in May, June, September, and October. Presentations were given to 585 students from 9 schools. Two schools participated in on-site field trips as a follow-up to the school presentation.

A float was entered in the Steinbach parade to promote the Preserve and Prairie Day. Preserve staff organized a full day of activities at the Prairie Shore Interpretive Trail for the 2009 Prairie Day. Approximately 80 people came out for a full day of guided walks, presentations and kids' activities. Evening activities at the Gardenton Ukrainian Museum were included in 2009 and approximately 40 people attended a traditional Ukrainian supper, a slide presentation and talks and demos about detecting and capturing bats and black-lighting for insects.

Mixed-grass Prairie Projects

Inventory and grazing demonstration projects continued in the mixed-grass prairie region in the southwest area of Manitoba in 2009/10. The goal of the inventory was to determine the extent and quality of mixed-grass prairie habitat remaining in Manitoba.

A total of 28 sites, totalling 2,755 hectares (6,807 acres) on 55 quarter sections were inventoried in the 2009 field season, including seven new sites, seven reassessed sites and 14 Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Project pasture assessments. The total mixed-grass prairie included in the inventory now stands at 76,277 hectares (190,104 acres). Of the mixed-grass prairie inventoried to this point, 60 per cent has been graded as "C" or better, which means it is in good condition or has the potential to return to good condition with proper management. From 2006 through 2009, a total of 86 interviews with owners of high quality mixed-grass prairie have been conducted to document management practices and landowner awareness of conservation initiatives and species at risk. Former participants in the Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing project total 12 as of March 2009. All 12 have participated in an interview as an assessment of the quality of the program and have indicated their management plans for the future.

The Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Project promotes agricultural activities that incorporate wise land stewardship and biodiversity conservation by entering into agreements with landowners to implement the twice-over rotational grazing system on native grasslands. In 2009/10, eight 5-year agreements were signed to protect 1,246 hectares of native grasslands. Various extension activities including a tour and a three-day workshop were held to allow landowners with native pastures to learn more about the principles behind the success of the twice-over system, and to demonstrate how the system can be used as a tool to enhance native grasslands for wildlife and livestock producers. Grass biology, prescribed burning, twice-over grazing and improved profitability were the main topics of discussion.

Shrub control through mowing was implemented on 172 hectares on seven agreement sites and prescribed burns were conducted on 119 hectares on four agreement sites. Vegetative changes as a result of mowing were monitored as part of a University of Manitoba Master's project. Grassland bird response to twice-over grazing versus season long grazing or idle lands was also assessed by a University of Manitoba Master's project.

Grazing project staff participated in the Manitoba Grazing School, Manitoba Conservation Districts Annual Convention and the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association Annual Meeting. Cattle were weighed as they went onto and were taken off of eight pastures to collect data on rate of gain and pasture performance. This information is essential to document and demonstrate the benefits of the twice-over grazing system to land owners. Additional funding for both the inventory and grazing project was provided by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

Ecosystem Monitoring Unit

The Ecosystem Monitoring Unit is responsible for monitoring the quality of Manitoba's terrestrial environment, which includes collecting data to determine the effects of industrial emissions and land-use changes on terrestrial ecosystem components (soil, vegetation, wildlife and habitat). Data that is collected and the extensive technical knowledge base of the staff enables the Unit to deliver scientifically based recommendations and technical support toward maintaining the quality of terrestrial ecosystems.

Key activities include:

- Sampled vegetation and soil at monitoring sites near Flin Flon to assess the long-term effects of emissions from the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd. smelter on boreal forest communities in the region.
- Conducted vegetation and soil sampling at several impacted areas in and around Flin Flon that are being revegetated through efforts of the Flin Flon/Creighton Green Project.

- Monitored plant species colonization and growth at the Ruttan Mine site near Leaf Rapids, Manitoba.
- A mowing study was designed and implemented on four properties at the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve in co-operation with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, to assess the effects of mowing techniques on plant species composition and diversity.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Development proposals under *The Environment Act* were reviewed in 2009/10. They included proposals for wind energy projects, highway upgrades, portable asphalt plants, irrigation projects, wastewater-treatment facilities, crop protection warehouses, bulk fertilizer facilities, battery operating permits, and town water supplies. Draft licences were reviewed, along with Sustainable Development Innovation Fund proposals, and the annual operating plans for the forestry industry companies.

Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba

Lands comprised of native grassland, wetland and woodland habitat have an important role in maintaining biodiversity as well as providing habitat for rare, threatened or endangered flora and fauna. In Manitoba these habitats are continually being lost to development. Impact to these habitats and associated wildlife should be avoided where possible. When avoidance is not possible, an environmental protection/development plan needs to be developed providing information on vegetation and wildlife, landform and drainage, soil characteristics and rare, threatened or endangered species as well as proposed timing of development and reclamation or re-vegetation actions. In addition, in-kind off-site mitigation is required to offset the impact of the development footprint.

Through delivery of a pilot project in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Area, mitigation for impact to wetlands as a result of Provincial highway construction was accomplished through a cooperative agreement with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. Wetland habitat reclamation and habitat securement projects were undertaken in the Western Region of the Province to offset impacts as a result of the twinning of PTH 1 to the Saskatchewan border as well as other highway projects in the NAWMP area. Other habitat mitigation works included a project with the Rural Municipalities of Riverside and Strathcona to facilitate construction of a sewage lagoon in southwest Manitoba.

Biodiversity Conservation

The section provides information and services to sustain Manitoba's natural biological diversity. It contains the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, which links Manitoba to other conservation partners and assists the province in meeting its International, National and Provincial agreements to conserve biodiversity, including species at risk. The authoritative information provided by the Centre is used in a variety of proactive ways, including Protected Areas Planning, Regional Integrated Resource Management, and Environmental Impact Assessment. The Centre promotes the social and economic well being of Manitobans through adherence to the principles of sustainable ecological development.

Key Results Achieved

Section activities are focused on three main program areas co-ordinated by a standardized spatial computer database maintained by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre:

1. Inventory and Monitoring of species of conservation concern, including species listed under the *Endangered Species Act* (Manitoba) and/or the federal *Species at Risk Act*.
2. Conservation Status Assessment of over 5,000 species of animals and plants found in Manitoba.
3. Recovery or Management strategies and plans are developed and implemented for listed Species at Risk.

Other key section activities include:

1. Policy and Procedures development, especially for Species at Risk.
2. Education, Research and Outreach.

These programs and activities depend on the participation and co-operation of Manitoba citizens to assist in the conservation of our natural biological diversity.

Manitoba Conservation Data Centre

The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a member of NatureServe International (www.natureserve.org), a network of 82 similar centres monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere, and also a member of NatureServe Canada, an organization to which CDCs from all Canadian provinces and one territory belong. The CDC completes an annual exchange of data integrating Manitoba's data with the entire network. Information from the Canadian CDC databases is recognized by Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada as being a key component of their efforts to monitor and conserve species at risk.

Key Results Achieved

- Production of updated maps and identification guides for plant species at risk in southeast Manitoba that enabled weed districts, provincial and municipal maintenance workers to conduct maintenance of road allowances while avoiding areas where species at risk may be flowering or producing seed.

- Partnerships with Nature Conservancy Canada, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, and others, whereby CDC staff provide information and expertise to assist with field surveys of species at risk undertaken by these organizations.

- A Data Sharing Agreement between the CDC and Manitoba Hydro has enabled Hydro to incorporate the locations of rare and at risk species into the Bipole III Site Selection and Environmental Assessment process. The CDC also entered into four other Data Sharing Agreements in 2009/10 to better assist partners in planning and implementing projects in Manitoba, and to improve data holdings of the CDC database.

- The CDC answered 282 requests for information from our rare species database. These requests came from provincial and federal government departments, consultants, universities, students and members of the public. 234 hours of staff time went into responding to these requests with an average turn around time of 6 days.The CDC completed an annual exchange of its data with NatureServe, integrating Manitoba's data with the entire North American network. This contributes to a better understanding of biodiversity throughout the continent.

Biotics Database Summary

Table WI.5

Summary of information in Manitoba Conservation Data Centre's Biotics Database

Information Type	Plant[1]	Animal[2]	Plant Community	Animal Other[3]	Total
Number of Elements[4]	3,034	2,144	174	11	5,363
Number of Rare to Uncommon Elements	533	348	45	0	926
Number of Source Features[5]	6,850	7,019	70	379	14,318
Number of Element Occurrences[6]	2,403	1,349	70	191	4,013

1. Includes vascular plants (ferns and flowering plants), non-vascular plants (lichens, mosses and liverworts) and fungi (mushrooms).
2. Includes vertebrate (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish) and invertebrate (insects, mussels and crayfish) animals.
3. Includes elements such as waterbird colonies, and snake and bat hibernacula.
4. A species of plant or animal, or a plant community known to occur in Manitoba.
5. A source feature is a mapped feature, based on one or more discrete observations of an element.
6. An element occurrence is the spatial representation of a species or plant community at a specific geographic location, based on one or more source features mapped for an area.

Inventory and Monitoring Program

Rare Plant and Invertebrate Inventory and Monitoring

Fieldwork to locate provincially rare plants and invertebrates is key to the assessment of candidate species at risk, and to the management and recovery of species at risk. In 2009/10, fieldwork was conducted at 94 sites by staff of the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC), and additional reports of rare species were provided by a number of partners and interested individuals.

Key Results Achieved

- Discovery of four new locations for Rough Agalinis, listed as Endangered in Canada under *The Species at Risk Act (SARA)*.
- Verification of a report of Endangered Small White Lady's-slipper near Emerson – the first occurrence of the species in that area.
- Completion of a survey of butterfly and moth species in mixed-grass prairie sites in western Manitoba – verification of species identifications is required to determine if any species at risk were found.

Breeding Bird Surveys

Manitoba Conservation promotes and coordinates involvement of skilled volunteers, naturalists and biologists in the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). The BBS assesses changes in abundance and distribution of birds along predetermined routes that are surveyed using standardized protocol each year. 2009 was a productive year for the BBS in Manitoba as approximately 50 volunteers were involved in surveying and submitting results for about 60 BBS routes throughout the province.

Threatened Grassland Bird Monitoring

Burrowing Owls have made a slight comeback in the last five years. During 2009, at least nine nesting Burrowing Owl pairs were located. Although most were in grassland areas of extreme southwestern

Manitoba, one pair was located near Carberry. Nesting success was also reduced in 2009, as only five of the nine pairs were successful and these raised fewer young than in 2008.

A total of 35 nesting Ferruginous Hawk pairs were recorded in Manitoba during 2009, the lowest number observed in nearly 20 years. However, the species has made an amazing comeback in the province, as it was absent from the early 1920s through 1984. Noticeable reductions in ground squirrel numbers in Ferruginous nesting areas since the mid-1990s has resulted in reduced nesting populations of Ferruginous Hawks and lowered nest success in recent years, however this trend appears to be changing.

Nesting populations of the Western Loggerhead Shrike have declined noticeably in southwestern Manitoba coinciding with widespread declines throughout much of the species range. A total of 46 nesting pairs were located in 2009, much reduced from the 109 pairs recorded in 2000 and 327 pairs located as recently as 1993. Recent declines in nesting success and abundance have been attributed to higher than normal mortality of adults and young in the nesting and wintering ranges as well as on migration, increased predation on nests and young, and to heightened mortality of nestlings during extended cool, wet periods in recent summers.

Monitoring of other rare and endangered grassland passerines in 2009 supported a recent trend towards slightly reduced numbers and decreased overall nesting range for Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrows and several other declining grassland specialists in southern Manitoba. Although Sprague's Pipit numbers appear to be stable with little overall decline evident in recent years, Baird's Sparrows have become extremely localized and rare even in former strongholds in extreme southwestern Manitoba.

Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Monitoring

There are believed to be less than 50 migrants Loggerhead Shrike pairs remaining in Canada. As with the western populations, numbers of this subspecies have plummeted near Winnipeg in recent decades. During 2009, only three birds were observed near Winnipeg and only one nesting pair was located. Each year young from both the eastern and western subspecies are banded in Manitoba and percentages of nesting adults that are banded are assessed to determine return rates, movements and survival rates. Although a small percentage of the young return to nest, low return rates of both young and adults suggest that excessive mortality after fledging, on migration, and in the wintering range may be related to ongoing declines in this subspecies.

Owl Monitoring

The Manitoba Volunteer Nocturnal Owl Survey had another successful year with 92 volunteers surveying 77 routes covering 1,237 kilometres of roads and trails. Surveyors detected 204 owls. On average, one owl was detected every six kilometres. The two most abundant species detected were the Northern Saw-whet Owl and the Great Horned Owl. The detection rates (number per kilometre) for most owl species decreased from 2008. Manitoba's provincial bird, the Great Gray Owl, increased. The survey's results help determine if Manitoba trends are local or more widespread across the species' North American range. Monitoring of Great Gray Owls and their prey in southeastern Manitoba continued. All Great Gray Owl nests failed at the egg stage in 2009 which coincided with a steep decline in Meadow Voles, their main prey.

The first year of a study on the breeding biology of the Barred Owl in Manitoba was completed in 2009. Forty-one breeding territories were identified. Further investigation of these sites led to the documentation of six nest sites. Prior to this study, only one natural nest site has ever been recorded in Manitoba.

Conservation Status Assessment Program

Federal-Provincial Initiatives under Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada

Participation on international and federal-provincial working groups and committees ensures that Manitoba's efforts to assess and conserve biological diversity are co-ordinated with those of other countries and Canadian jurisdictions. Implementing programs for species at risk and biodiversity demonstrates Manitoba's commitment to the Accord and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

Report on the General Status of Wildlife in Canada:

In Wild Species 2010: The General Status of Species in Canada, many taxonomic groups that were assessed in previous editions of the report are reassessed: Vascular Plants, Freshwater Mussels, Odonates, Butterflies, Crayfishes, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals. The report also includes new taxonomic groups that are assessed for the first time, including Lichens, Mosses, Spiders, Predaceous Diving Beetles, Ground Beetles (including the reassessment of Tiger Beetles), Lady Beetles, Bumblebees, Black Flies, Horse Flies, Mosquitoes, and some selected Macromoths. A total of 11,950 species were assessed.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and the Manitoba Endangered Species Advisory Committee: Departmental staff and Water Stewardship staff participates in these national and provincial assessment processes to determine which species are at risk by reviewing and contributing to status reports.

Biodiversity Convention Office: Manitoba participates on a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Biodiversity Working Group that is implementing programs such as bio-infomatics, reporting on status and trends in biodiversity, and eco-citizenship, including stewardship.

The branch coordinated the department's contribution to the "Canadian Biodiversity: Ecosystem Status and Trends 2010" report which will be released in 2010. This report assesses the "Healthy and Diverse Ecosystems" component of the Biodiversity Outcomes Framework and provides an ecosystem perspective on biodiversity. It identifies key findings in terms of four themes: biomes; human/ecosystem interactions; habitat, wildlife and ecosystem processes; and science/policy interface. Case studies are profiled representing all jurisdictions and ecozones.

Recovery and Management Program

Recovery efforts were implemented for many endangered species in Manitoba including Woodland Caribou (Boreal population), Piping Plover, Wood Bison, White Flower Moth, Dakota Skipper, Ottoe and Poweshiek Skipper, Prairie Skink, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Sprague's Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike (eastern and western subspecies), Small White Lady's-slipper, Hairy Prairie-clover, Buffalograss, Ross's Gull, Western Spiderwort, Smooth Goosefoot, Western Silvery Aster, Riddell's Goldenrod, Short-eared Owl, and Western Prairie Fringed-orchid.

Highlights of some of these efforts are presented below:

Butterfly Species at Risk

Research and monitoring activities in cooperation with the University of Winnipeg continued at the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. Graduate student research on the life history and biology of the Poweshiek skipper continued. Determination of the vegetative and physical characteristics of preferred sites and an analysis of movement patterns between preferred sites will improve management strategies for the species in the preserve.

A graduate student was recruited to begin work on the biology and ecology of the Dakota Skipper butterfly in central and western Manitoba. The study will examine the habitat needs, activity period and population movements of this Threatened species. Collaboration continued with the National Recovery Teams for Ottoe Skipper, Poweshiek Skipper and White Flower Moth.

Chitek Lake Wood Bison Recovery and Management

The last population survey in March 2009 found 208 bison, giving a population estimate of approximately 300 animals. The herd has grown steadily since 21 bison were introduced in two groups in 1991 and 1996. Chitek Lake is located within the traditional use area of Skownan First Nation. Manitoba Conservation is working co-operatively with the First Nation to finalize and implement a Wood Bison Management Plan.

Piping Plover Recovery Program

The Piping Plover Recovery Program received financial support from the Manitoba Special Conservation Fund, the federal Habitat Stewardship Fund and from Manitoba Hydro during 2009. Piping Plover nesting populations in Manitoba have declined from 130 birds in 1990 to eight nesting birds (four pairs) in 2009. Recent declines in Manitoba have been largely attributed to habitat loss caused by above-normal water levels that have persisted in some of the best nesting lakes. Increased vegetation encroachment at many former nesting beaches on Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg has also eliminated much of the open, sandy beaches required by nesting Piping Plovers. Increased human disturbance at popular nesting beaches and increased predation on nests and chicks have also been linked with reduced nesting success.

Habitat management continued at Grand Beach and Grand Marais to restore optimal nesting conditions at Manitoba's foremost breeding sites. During 2009, two restored nesting sites were occupied by successful breeding pairs. Another pair at Grand Beach and one pair near Gimli were also successful. Due to stewardship and habitat improvement efforts the productivity of nesting pairs has doubled the 1.25 chicks per nesting pair target outlined in the National Piping Plover Recovery Strategy.

Stewardship and recovery activities undertaken in 2009 included early installation of protective fencing and signage at all major nesting sites to reduce chances of nests or pairs being disturbed by human recreational activities. Temporary fencing and signage was also erected around feeding areas used by family groups. Intensive all-day observations of plover family groups during the chick's first two weeks of life maximized survival of young, and provided an opportunity to communicate and work with the public and parks staff to eliminate disturbance to pairs, nests and chicks. Protective cages were also installed over nests to protect them from predators, and a Piping Plover Guardian Program at Grand Beach and at Gimli increased public awareness and participation in conservation measures at these key nesting sites.

Grassland Birds at Risk Recovery Program

Manitoba's Threatened Grassland Birds Program oversees monitoring and recovery efforts for threatened and declining grassland birds in southern Manitoba. Buoyed by the recent return of nesting Burrowing Owls in some areas of southwest and south-central Manitoba, three Conservation Districts have been working with staff from Manitoba Conservation and with funding from the Special Conservation Fund to alert landowners to stewardship activities that they can undertake to assist the owls and to install artificial nesting burrows in areas where there is landowner interest and suitable habitat for nesting. Manitoba Conservation is funding and its staff are supervising a University of Winnipeg Masters student undertaking research on alternate captive-breeding and release techniques for establishing Burrowing Owl populations in former nesting areas. Owls for captive releases will be housed in specially built pens at the Assiniboine Park Zoo and in a new Burrowing Owl and grasslands public awareness area planned for FortWhyte Alive.

Recovery efforts for Ferruginous Hawks have included installation of artificial nests in sturdy trees near suitable foraging pastures and in sites where pairs would not be subjected to disturbance. During the late 1980s and 1990s, over 400 artificial nests were erected in Manitoba. During the past decade, nearly three-quarters of the nesting Ferruginous pairs have nested in artificial nests, resulting in higher reproductive success of nesting pairs.

Efforts to stem the decline of Loggerhead Shrikes in southern Manitoba have been more challenging since immediate causes for the decline are not always obvious. Recent efforts have focussed on gaining a better understanding on limiting factors and return rates. Nest covers that have been installed in areas where predators appear to be a problem have proven to be effective in improving reproductive success. Increasing numbers of young raised in these areas is critical to maintenance of these populations as young shrikes tend to return to nesting areas where they were raised. To obtain data on survival and return rates, young in monitored nests are banded and returning adults are examined for bands.

Boreal Woodland Caribou Recovery

- Manitoba Conservation chairs three regional management advisory committees (Eastern Region, Northwest Region and the Northeast Region) that include representatives of First Nations, industry and stakeholder groups.

- Manitoba is represented on the National Boreal Woodland Caribou Technical Committee and on a scientific review committee tasked with identifying critical habitat. The committee's first critical habitat report was released in June 2008 and is now available on Environment Canada's website.
- The federal government has initiated a National Recovery Strategy consultation process in Manitoba and section staff participated in a number of planning meetings to review informational materials and consultation strategies.

Manitoba continues to work closely with the forest industry, other stakeholders and First Nations to protect boreal caribou habitat.

Education, Research and Outreach

Endangered Species and Biodiversity

Presentations on Manitoba's Endangered Species and Biodiversity Programs were delivered on a variety of occasions including at the 9th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference, Winnipeg, February 25-27, 2010. This event was co-hosted by Manitoba Conservation. Considerable staff time contributed to the success of this event both on the steering and program committees. Please visit www.pcesc.ca for more information.

Other biodiversity presentations were delivered to classes at the University of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba, Fort Richmond Collegiate, and Manitoba Science Academy at Pinawa.

Training sessions on amphibian diversity and identification were delivered for park interpreters. Staff assisted with hosting the 4th Annual Festival of Dragonflies in July 2010 at Oak Hammock Marsh.

Manitoba Conservation staff assisted in forming the Manitoba Biodiversity Network Working Group - a coalition of organizations, including local governments and individuals dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity for sustainable and healthy ecosystems, economies, and societies.

Red-sided Garter Snake

The hibernacula at Narcisse remain popular with Manitobans and non-residents who visit each spring to watch the snakes emerge. The abundance of snakes in the Interlake also continues to attract scientists from several major universities in the United States to study the ecology, physiology and reproductive biology of the species.

Cougar

The Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch held an information session for the public at Big Whiteshell in Whiteshell Provincial Park. The branch was also invited to provide information on the status of cougar in Manitoba to classes at the University of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba, and the Manitoba Science Academy. The sessions conveyed information on the biology and ecology of cougar and advice on what to do if encountering a cougar. A paper on the reliability of eye-witness reports of cougar was presented at a meeting of the Manitoba Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Polar Bear Education and Outreach

Section staff participated for the sixth year in an educational program for high school students organized by Polar Bears International, a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation of polar bears through education. Fifteen high school students from Canada, USA, Australia and Denmark travelled to Winnipeg and Churchill to learn about polar bear biology and issues in polar bear management. The program also provided an opportunity for students to learn first-hand about the impact of climate change on the arctic.

Two outstanding high school students from Winnipeg, one from Grant Park High School, and one from Shaftesbury High School, were the recipients of the department's 5th annual Biodiversity Conservation Award at the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium. The award consists of a scholarship provided by Polar Bears International to attend the Churchill camp on climate change and its impacts on polar bears. It is presented to an exemplary project(s) at the Intermediate Level in Animal Biology or Environmental Studies. Section staff judged projects and interviewed finalists to select the recipient.

Research

Manitoba Conservation staff supervised and/or served on graduate student committees including:

- M.Sc. student Jaimee Dupont, Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy, University of Winnipeg, researching the biology and ecology of Poweshiek Skipper butterflies with the aim of improving management strategies for the species in the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve.
- M.Sc. student Joel Jameson, Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy, University of Winnipeg, researching the attraction of migratory bats to wind turbines.
- M.Sc. student Christa Rigney, Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy, University of Winnipeg, researching the biology and ecology of the threatened Dakota Skipper butterfly in central and western Manitoba.
- M.Sc. student Alex Froese, Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy, University of Winnipeg, researching captive breeding and release recovery methods for the endangered Burrowing Owl in southwestern Manitoba.
- M.Sc. student Todd Whiklo, Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Manitoba, researching the breeding habitat requirements of the Barred Owl in Manitoba.

Research Permits

- Section staff reviewed and recommended for approval 10 requests for scientific research permits or amendments to existing permits bringing the total number of new and ongoing research projects on non-game wildlife in the province to 21.
- Researchers from within and outside of Manitoba investigated the biology and ecology of species ranging from endangered butterflies to frogs, snakes, small mammals, raptors and polar bears.

Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement

Less than ideal fall harvest conditions in south central Manitoba contributed to delayed harvest in several locations. These conditions resulted in increased compensations claims from the previous year by ducks, geese and sandhill cranes. The program operated two feeding stations and nine Crown land lure crops in damage-prone areas. Of these lure crops eight could not be salvaged due to excessive moisture conditions. The program provides farmers with cracker shells, lends scarecrows and propane scare cannons to protect crops. A total of 23 scare-cannon depots were set up to provide farmers ready access to equipment.

The program operated within the context of a Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement for the year, with the agreement being ratified for the 2008/09 program year.

Table WI.6
12.3(f) Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,399	32.29	2,334	65	
Other Expenditures	1,075		1,137	(62)	
Grant Assistance	1,035		1,036	(1)	
Canada Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement	315		354	(39)	
Total 12.3(f)	**4,824**	**32.29**	**4,861**	**(37)**	

Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

The Fund is administered by the Sustainable Resource and Policy Management Branch. This Fund provides support to non-profit community-based organizations to undertake projects that will enhance the natural resources of the province. It also encourages organizations to develop local projects that foster better understanding of natural resources issues and the environment. All projects must meet provincial and federal regulatory requirements. In 2009/10 the Fund received $125,000 but only granted $104,614 to eight applicants.

Table SC.1

12.3(g) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Grant Assistance	111	0.00	125	(14)	
Total 12.3(g)	**111**	**0.00**	**125**	**(14)**	

Lands and Geomatics

Comprised of Crown Lands Operations (Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs) and Remote Sensing and Land Mapping Services (Geomatics), the Branch is responsible for the management and control of provincial Crown lands that are governed under *The Crown Lands Act* and *The Wild Rice Act*, and the provision of mapping services throughout the province including the development of a provincial integrated geo-spatial infrastructure.

Functions also include policy development, the delivery of the Cottage Lot Initiative and overseeing Crown land transactions administered through the Crown Land and Property SOA on behalf of the Department.

Crown Lands Operations

Cottage Lot Program

- New cottage lot development enhances the quality of life for Manitobans by providing opportunities to enjoy Manitoba's natural beauty and cottage life, and provides economic benefits to communities and municipalities. Benefits are derived from the initial construction of the infrastructure, as well as from cottage construction and ongoing local spending and tax contributions.
- Subdivision proposals go through extensive planning, review and approval processes to determine suitability of the sites before development begins. These processes ensure high standards are followed with respect to environmental, natural resource, sewage and waste disposal, servicing and other interests.
- The Cottage Lot Program Information is available on the Conservation web site at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/cottaging

Key Results Achieved:

- The engineering, design and planning processes were completed for a joint cottage lot development by Conservation and Fisher River Cree Nation, and conditional subdivision approval was received.
- Engineering, design and planning processes continued for a joint cottage lot development with Black River First Nation.
- The branch continued to identify sites and assess their potential for cottage lot development.
- Cottage lots that remained unallocated after the last cottage lot draw in 2007 were made available on October 26, 2009 through the First Come, First Served Cottage Lot Program.

Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs

Crown Land Programs

- The section is responsible for Crown land planning, policy and program development with respect to non-agricultural Crown lands and wild rice. Programs include Crown land sales, exchanges, leases, permits, licences of occupation and easements to accommodate a wide range of land uses.
- Other key functions of the section include programs involving Crown land transactions with the federal government such as transfer of water lots and uplands for public wharves and harbours,

leasing or transfer of lands for navigational beacon sites, environmental monitoring sites, and other federal public works.

- The section leads or participates in Crown consultation with First Nations and other Aboriginal communities regarding proposed Crown land uses or dispositions.
- The section provides instructions to the Crown Lands and Property Agency with respect to approval, conditional approval, or disapproval of Crown land applications processed by the Agency on behalf of Conservation.
- The section is responsible for policy recommendations or decisions regarding various Crown land issues impacted by other legislation or public interests.
- The section is also responsible for administering the grants-in-lieu of taxes program, through which municipalities are provided grants by the department for Crown land located within their municipalities that are not otherwise exempt from taxation.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Other Aboriginal Land Programs

- The Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs area is responsible for the preparation of various legal documents related to the fulfilment of Treaty Land Entitlement, other Aboriginal Land Claim settlement agreements and federal land transactions. These include issuance of Exclusive Use/Land Use Permits, Cabinet Submissions, Federal Transfers/Reversions of Administration and Control, Real Property Applications, Dissolving of Titles, and Fee Simple Transfers as specified in the respective settlement agreement.
- The section is responsible for administration of Crown land programs and settlement agreements involving First Nations and Aboriginal communities and plays a key role in the negotiation and implementation of various agreements and programs involving Crown land. To ensure all issues are addressed in accordance with the various settlement agreements, provincial departments and agencies are required to comment on the selections. The section then formulates a provincial position on each site in accordance with the appropriate agreement provisions and participates in discussions with Canada and the First Nations to resolve the conditions under which the lands would be available for transfer.
- Crown land related technical support and advisory services are provided to other branches and departments that are responsible for negotiation and delivery of agreements, claims and programs involving First Nations. Services include research, mapping, record keeping, technical advice and services related to the administrative land transfer requirements, agreements and any interests, encumbrances or legislative limitations that may affect availability of selected Crown lands.

Key results achieved:

- The Crown Land and Treaty Land Entitlement Programs area was actively involved in strategic planning session involving Manitoba, Canada and the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee. The development of a strategic plan will assist the parties in focusing on priority items to improve the length of time required to transfer land to Canada under the various Treaty Land Entitlement agreements.
- The Treaty Land Entitlement System (TRELES), maintained by the section was adopted as the source of core data for tracking charts that will be utilized by Canada to report on progress to the First Nations.
- The section participated in the Manitoba Tourist Lodge and Outfitters Annual meeting with a view to improving communication and providing information to the associations on Treaty Land Entitlement in Manitoba.

- Manitoba has continued to fulfill its goal of expediting the transfer of lands under TLE agreements immediately upon receipt of a request from Canada to do so. The ability for Manitoba to meet this goal is directly tied to the number of acres that have been surveyed by Canada and approved for transfer by the parties.

- 637 acres of residual Crown interests (such as mines and minerals) were transferred by Manitoba to Canada between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010. The transfers relate to properties that were acquired by First Nations that have the ability to purchase other land for TLE purposes under their respective agreements. The total residual Crown interest transferred up to March 31, 2010 is approximately 17,997 acres.

- 45,821 acres of Crown land were transferred by Manitoba to Canada between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010

- Table LA.1 provides a summary of Crown land amounts that have been selected and are pending survey or have been transferred to Canada by Manitoba for Treaty Land Entitlement purposes up to March 31, 2010.

Table LA.1

Treaty Land Entitlement – Crown Land Amounts

First Nations with Treaty Entitlement Agreements*	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Total Selected Acres	Available for Transfer Pending Survey	Transferred to Canada by Manitoba
Barren Lands	66,420	28,252		
Brokenhead	4,344	4,275		672
Buffalo Point	3,432	2.642		2,370
Bunibonibee	35,434	35,209	1,367	31,342
Garden Hill	45,339	53,104		43,530
God's Lake	42,600	41,063	16,191	15,515
Manto Sipi	8,725	9,965	1,212	4,284
Mathias Colomb	217,364	184,034	77,444	100,339
Nisichawayasihk	61,761	72,735	1,028	33,816
Northlands	94,084	56,905	20,223	
Norway House	104,784	106,035	15,036	45,641
Opaskwayak	47,658	47,234	7,493	24,374
Peguis	55,038	17,540		
Red Sucker Lake	9,487	9,585		9,585
Rolling River	2,356	2,351		2,351
Sapotaweyak	108,134	112,702		99,701
St. Theresa Point	34,908	35,185		35,185
War Lake	7,156	6,702		480
Wassagamach	12,493	12,511		12,511
Wuskwi Sipihk	44,168	44,347	8,266	25,190
	1,005,685	879,737	148,260	486,886

* The following Entitlement First Nations have not signed individual Treaty Entitlement Agreements: Fox Lake, Marcel Colomb, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin, Sayisi Dene, Shamattawa and York Factory.

Remote Sensing and Land Mapping Services (Geomatics)

The geomatics area is comprised of four distinct sections; Remote Sensing Program, Cadastral Mapping Program, Topographical Mapping Program and the Geographical Names Program. All areas are heavily involved in GIS applications and geo-spatial analysis. The mandate is to develop and implement a provincial integrated geo-spatial infrastructure by co-operating with all public sector agencies, avoid duplication of data and promote data sharing within these agencies.

Remote Sensing

The Remote Sensing section provides earth observation services and related geo-spatial information from a range of air-craft and space-craft platforms to derive insight, evaluation and assessment of the natural and physical resources of Manitoba.

This information helps to support natural resource management and environmental monitoring activities within the Department and other Government of Manitoba agencies.

Key results achieved:

- Project involvement includes the usage of NOAA/AVHRR satellite data between April 1 and Oct. 30 for the Canadian World Crop monitoring program. The GeoComp satellite image produces daily and weekly composites detecting change "happenings" for 1) Global climate change and 2) Parks Canada program.
- Work is continuing in partnership with PFRA and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporate to re-evaluate the Land Use/Land Cover changes that have occurred since 2000. Seventeen classifications are being analyzed. This project covers all of Agro Manitoba.
- As part of the Kyoto Protocol, Pacific Forest Service and MRCS agreed to evaluate the deforestation that has taken place between 1990 and 2008 using Landsat 5/7 and ancillary data.
- The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre is producing a land-cover map of the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site on the east side of Manitoba and into a portion of North Western Ontario. This project is using Landsat 5/7 satellite imagery circa 2000.
- The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre also annually maps the Red River Valley flooding using Radarsat 1 data.
- The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre has also been involved in the University of Manitoba Mentoring Program.
- The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre is also responsible for ordering and storing of Satellite Data for the Province of Manitoba.

Cadastral Mapping Section

The Cadastral Mapping Section is responsible for the development and maintenance of a province- wide digital cadastral parcel infrastructure based on land parcels shown on registered plans of survey. The topologically structured data is used extensively throughout government, by provincial utilities and by general Manitoba GIS community at-large to meet land referencing, planning and decision making needs. All parcel data is downloadable for free from the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) spatial data warehouse. https://mli2.gov.mb.ca//index.html

Key results achieved:

- As a result of 2009 work 13,047 land parcels have been computed bringing the total number of land parcels in the system to close to 600,000 province wide. In 2009 the parcel mapping coverage area was expanded to include flood risk municipalities neighboring an 80 km wide corridor on either side of the Red River south to the International Boundary. Additional parcel mapping projects included all of Twp 9 Rge 14 WPM and at the community level three townships linking and containing the communities of Gilbert Plains and Grandview.

- Over 164 separate MLI digital mapping datasets were updated under the section's annual maintenance program to ensure timeliness of the parcel data to end users.

- The section created conceptual cottage lot subdivision designs for potential new sites for the Manitoba Cottage Lot Program on behalf of Crown Lands.

The section continued to dedicate its efforts to develop a seamless digital Manitoba land reference grid which includes a fully topologically structured parcel based approximation of the Dominion Land Survey (DLS) system in southern Manitoba. The section supports the cause by creating and maintaining the relevant map files as well as computing coordinates for the DLS township framework markers where they have been tied to provincial survey control networks.

Topographic Mapping

The Topographic Mapping Section is responsible for topographic information and is designed to help support, evaluate and manage Manitoba's resources.

Key results achieved:

- The topographic mapping section was responsible for the compilation and production of base maps for 11 Treaty Land Entitlement parcels. Seventy four 1:4000 digital maps were created to cover these parcels and hard copies of these maps were printed as required. Severance lines were determined from contour information.

- The geo-referenced base map features for 130 ten kilometre tiles (13,000 km^2) were compiled for Forestry branch. These tiles are in the Highrock forestry area and data collected included designated areas, buildings, structures, roads, railways, utilities, hydrography and some land cover. The data was collected two-dimensionally using digital orthophotography.

- The provincial ortho-photography refresh program continued. This program was initiated by the need for high quality resource photography and is funded by seven departments and two private partners. The photography was flown at a scale of 1:40,000 and the ortho-photographs are supplied in five kilometre tile in both black, white and colour, and with both 0.5m and 1m pixel resolution. This was the third year of the five year program. The imagery will be available on the Manitoba Land Initiative website for all departments.

Manitoba Geographical Names Program

The Manitoba Geographical Names Program (on behalf of the Minister of Conservation) provides a provincial geographic name authority for the enhancement, maintenance and protection of Manitoba's nomenclature. This is accomplished through the development and implementations of policies and procedures, the establishment and monitoring of toponymic quality control in government documents, the research for and processing of decisions on new and established names and ongoing liaison with the Geographical Names Board of Canada.

The service relates to the dissemination of geographical name information to all Manitobans (including internal government departments and agencies) regarding the correct spelling, usage, and origin of names provides a proactive and vital toponymic quality control service for provincial maps, signs, and other documentation within Manitoba.

Key results achieved:

- Maintained liaison with other provincial boards and the Geographic Names Board of Canada ensuring Manitoba's interests are identified, evaluated, and included in provincial, federal, and international decisions.
- Enhanced stakeholders' (including Manitoba Conservation) awareness and utilization of Manitoba toponyms through active collaboration including the provision of digital toponymic data via multiple formats.
- Maintained contact with First Nations people to ensure First Nations heritage and history are respected and recorded in Manitoba's toponyms.
- Maintained and enhanced the commemorative names project through various media events and new displays co-developed with organizations such as the Manitoba Museum and the Royal Canadian Artillery Museum.
- Enhanced the program archives through the continued development and coordination of existing records and the digital archival of the thousands of existing paper-only records.

Table LA.2

12.3(h) Lands and Geomatics

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,649	24.00	1,584	65	
Other Expenditures	3,675		3,987	(312)	
Recoveries from Other Appropriations	0		(24)	24	
Total 12.3(h)	**5,324**	**24.00**	**5,547**	**(223)**	

Survey Services

The Branch administers and enforces *The Surveys Act* (Part II) and The Survey of Mining Claims Regulation, approves Plans of Survey for disposition of land under *The Crown Lands Act, The Gas Pipe Line Act* and The Mineral Disposition and Mineral Lease Regulation *(The Mines and Minerals Act)*. The Branch represents Manitoba on matters related to provincial boundaries, provides survey services to other departments, and maintains the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network and Land Survey System. Public benefits include a secure process for conveyance and reservation of Crown land and rights therein, an expeditious survey service for acquisition and disposition of land, a survey system for determining property boundaries, and a geodetic survey network for spatial referencing of land-related information.

Land Survey System Program

The program restores survey monuments of the Provincial Land Survey system, an infrastructure for land ownership, to ensure a strong cadastral (property parcel) framework for land conveyance and economic activities. It restores survey monuments and maintains survey documents concerning provincial boundaries. The program provides instructions to Manitoba Land Surveyors on the survey of Crown lands, examines their survey returns, approves their plans of survey, and operates a Survey Information Centre. The Survey Information Centre maintains cadastral and geodetic survey information dating back to 1870 and provides such information to industry, government departments and agencies, and the general public.

Key Results Achieved:

Monuments restored in the township and parish systems of survey	16
Survey instructions issued	10
Plans of survey examined	24
Plans of survey tentatively approved	24
Plans of survey approved for Treaty Land Entitlements	18
Plans of survey approved for other than Treaty Land Entitlements	14
Plans filed in the survey information centre	9
Request for survey information responded	109
Marker posts provided at no charge to land surveyors for identification and protection of survey monuments of the township system of survey	127

Manitoba Spatial Reference Network Program

The program maintains a network of survey monuments whose positions (latitude, longitude and elevation) have been determined. Disciplines such as civil and geotechnical engineering, resource management, and legal surveying use this network to determine horizontal position and vertical elevation of natural and man-made features and related information. This network is essential to ensure compatibility of all surveying, mapping, navigation, and other spatial information and to permit seamless and economic exchange and merge of such information. The Manitoba Spatial Reference Network, which includes 257 primary and approximately 10,000 secondary control-survey stations, is integral to the Canadian Spatial Reference System (CSRS), contributing to a reliable national infrastructure for referencing spatial information.

Key Results Achieved:

Staff recalculated the primary component of the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network to improve positional information of survey stations and updated description documents for locating survey stations.

The Branch continued participation on the Canadian Geodetic Reference System Committee (CGRSC) of the Canadian Council on Geomatics (CCOG). CGRSC is a federal-provincial working committee that is mandated to plan and coordinate the maintenance and improvement of the geodetic spatial reference system in Canada. The committee, amongst other activities, continued work on Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System and initiated work on integration of private Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) real-time kinematic (RTK) networks with the CSRS.

- Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System is a long-term initiative that will establish a new geoid-based datum to eventually replace the Mean Sea Level datum for vertical referencing. The new datum, scheduled for implementation by 2013, will offer numerous advantages over the current reference datum. It will be compatible with international standards, enable cost-savings through the use of GNSS technologies such as GPS, be accessible at any point in Canada, and will not be hindered by the deterioration of current benchmarks. In 2009/10 Natural Resources Canada continued testing the current geoid model (CGG05) with data from the GOCE satellite mission for an acceptable solution. For more information, visit the Canadian Spatial Reference System website at http://www.geod.nrcan.gc.ca/hm/index_e.php

- CCOG has expressed concerns about lineage and accuracy of the private RTK networks that are proliferating across Canada and has instructed the CGRSC to develop a plan to describe, validate, and provide certification of commercial private providers to ensure their compatibility with CSRS. Three such networks exist in Manitoba.

Survey Services provided a presentation at a Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) meeting in January 2010 on recreational GPS receivers that will be used by First Nations as they develop a GIS of ancestral lands and knowledge on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

Survey Services provided a training seminar in April 2009 for department staff to introduce the basics of GNSS, coordinate reference systems and navigation. Most of the training focused on handheld GPS receivers used by department staff for navigation, GIS data collection, and time tagging.

Survey Services Program

The program provides legal and control surveys and cadastral (property parcel) mapping under cost recovery to provincial government departments and agencies for the acquisition and disposition of land, construction and maintenance of public works, and spatial referencing of land-related features and information. Clients include:

- Conservation (Regional Operations, Lands & Geomatics Branch, Parks & Natural Areas Branch, and Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch);
- Infrastructure and Transportation (Regional Operations, Manitoba Floodway Authority, Crown Land and Property Agency, Northern Airports and Marine Branch, Water Control and Structures Branch, and Highway Engineering Branch);
- Water Stewardship (Water Control Systems Management Branch);
- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (Agreements Management Branch and Local Government Development Division);
- Science, Technology, Energy and Mines (Mines Branch and Petroleum Branch); and
- Intergovernmental Affairs (Community Planning Services Branch).

Products and services include:

- Legal surveys of public roads, water control works and utility easements;
- Legal surveys of land parcels and subdivisions (including the cottaging initiative);
- Retracement and restoration surveys of prior legal survey;
- Topographic surveys and terrain elevation models;
- Control surveys for topographic mapping and civil engineering projects;
- Control surveys for property parcel mapping (cadastral integration surveys);

- Cadastral (property parcel) mapping;
- Property parcel dimensions, acreages and coordinates;
- Administrative boundary plans;
- Legal descriptions for disposition of Crown lands and interests therein;
- Structure location surveys and certificates; and
- Land transaction/conveyance documents.

Key Results Achieved:

- Cost-recovery objective;
- Topographic and easement surveys for cottage subdivisions at various locations;
- Public road and water control work surveys at numerous locations;
- Parcel surveys for additions to Indian Reserves at many sites;
- Land descriptions for Crown land dispositions and Ministerial orders; and
- Administrative boundary plans for protected areas, community boundaries, wildlife management areas and provincial parks.

The Branch initiated, continued or completed 558 projects in 2009/10, as follows:

Legal surveys	112
Control surveys	2
Administrative boundary plans	10
Cadastral integration surveys	4
Legal descriptions	430

Table SS.1
12.3(i) Survey Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,461	26.00	1,661	(200)	
Other Expenditures	398		443	(45)	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(1,351)		(1,571)	220	
Total 12.3(i)	**508**	**26.00**	**533**	**(25)**	

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP DIVISION

The Division's administration manages and facilitates development by the branches of legislation, policies, plans, licenses and programs to sustainably manage natural resources and the environment.

Administration responsibilities include:

Providing leadership to the Directors in the Division;
Ensuring that Division responsibilities are executed in an effective, efficient manner;
Recruiting Directors when necessary;
Representing the division on the Department's executive;
Representing the Department on boards and commissions;
Ensuring effective budgetary management; and
Communicating executive policy direction to the Division.

Table ES.1
12.4(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	215	3.00	231	(16)	
Other Expenditures	37		64	(27)	
Total 12.4(a)	**252**	**3.00**	**295**	**(43)**	

Sustainable Resource and Policy Management

The Branch coordinates and integrates departmental policy, natural resource allocation, Crown land use planning, and legislative development and interpretation, in accordance with the provincial Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development. The Branch is responsible for the administration of *The Sustainable Development Act, The Resource Tourism Operators Act, The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act* and the Endangered Species and Special Conservation Fund. The Branch assists in the development of effective departmental policies and programming, establishes departmental positions with respect to Crown land dispositions and various development proposals, provides planning and policy assistance to local planning authorities, administers licensing of resource-based tourism facilities, coordinates and develops departmental legislation. The Branch also represents the department on issues related to internal and international environment and trade agreements, as well as representing Manitoba on national forums for inter-governmental cooperation.

Key Results Achieved:

- The Branch provided a strategic and systematic approach for the Department to work with other governments on environment and natural resource issues, and contributed to a strong role and voice in national discussions on environmental protection in Canada.

- The Branch provided secretariat support to the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development, its task groups and committees. Chaired by the Minister of Conservation, the Round Table is an advisory body to the provincial government, which provides advice and support to decision makers. The Round Table presented the 2009 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards to honour Manitobans who embrace the spirit and principles of sustainable development. Along with providing logistical support to the Awards program and the recognition event, the Branch also administered the Sustainable Development Scholarship Program for post-secondary students.

- The Branch provided planning and policy analysis support to the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee. The Branch, in conjunction with regional Bloc Planning Committees, maintained and administered a system of operational land use coding on Crown land, and prepared Crown Land Plans for Southern Manitoba. The Branch also administered the Committee's system for the review of Crown land disposition denial decisions and maintained the committee's policy and procedures manual.

- The Branch continued to work with First Nations on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg on the nomination of a World Heritage Site and the development of Crown land management plans for traditional areas under *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act*.

- The Branch co-chaired to a successful conclusion a national working group on the development of improved environmental assessment practices across Canada through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) forum.

- The Branch coordinated the review and established departmental positions with respect to all proposed Crown land dispositions, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation highway projects and aggregate exploration programs, Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines oil and gas lease programs, oil battery development, Manitoba Water Stewardship integrated watershed management plans and various other dispositions, projects and technical requests.

- The Branch assisted municipalities and Planning Districts in the preparation of development plans and zoning by-laws by coordinating preparation of departmental advice and information on planning, management and use of natural resources, and by responding to requests for studies, maps, and statistical compilations required to properly allocate resources.

- The Branch provided secretariat support to the Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC) under *The Resource Tourism Operators Act*. The Committee, comprising Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Manitoba Water Stewardship, makes recommendations to the Administrator of Resource Tourism on the licensing of outfitters and the permitting of their associated facilities for the purposes of hunting, fishing and ecotourism activities. The required annual lodge and outfitter licenses and/or permits were then issued. The Branch also served as secretariat to the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee, which provides an appeal mechanism for operators wishing to appeal a decision of the Administrator of Resource Tourism.

- The Branch administered the Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund. This Fund provides support to non-profit community-based organizations to undertake projects that will enhance the natural resources of the province. It also encourages organizations to develop local projects that foster better understanding of natural resources and environment issues. All projects must meet provincial and federal regulatory requirements.

Key Program Outputs:

Legislation

Manitoba Conservation has administrative responsibility for 27 statutes and 90 regulations.

The following legislative and regulatory activity within Manitoba Conservation's administrative mandate occurred during the reporting period:

- ***The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act*** received royal assent on June 11, 2009.

- ***The Forest Amendment Act*** received royal assent on June 11, 2009 and amended ***The Forest Act***.

- ***The Environment Amendment Act*** received royal assent on June 11, 2009 and amended ***The Environment Act.***

- The *Arborists Regulation (86/2009)* and the *Forest Health Protection Regulation (87/2009)* under ***The Forest Health Protection Act*** were registered on April 23, 2009.

- The *Tire Stewardship Regulation (155/2009)* under ***The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act*** was repealed and registered on September 21, 2009.

- The *Prescribed Landfills Regulation (180/2009)* under ***The Climate Change and Emissions Reductions Act*** was registered on November 10, 2009.

- The *Coal-Fired Emergency Operations Regulation (186/2009)* under ***The Climate Change and Emissions Reductions Act*** was registered on November 18, 2009.

- The *Household Hazardous Material and Prescribed Material Stewardship Regulation (16/2010)* and the *Electrical and Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulation (17/2010)* under ***The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act*** were registered on February 3, 2010.

- Twenty-two amending regulations were registered during the reporting period, amending nineteen existing regulations including:

    - an amendment to the *Provincial Snowmobile Trail Regulation (163/2009)* under ***The Crown Lands Act.***

- an amendment to the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation (172/2009)* and an amendment to the *Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation (156/2009)* under ***The Environment Act.***
- an amendment to the *Multi-Material Stewardship (Interim Measures) Regulation (40/2010)* under ***The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act.***
- an amendment to the *Park Activities Regulation (102/2009)*, an amendment to the *Provincial Parks Designation Regulation (89/2009)*, an amendment to the *Park Reserves Designation Regulation (157/2009)*, and two amendments to the *Park Fees Regulation (15/2009, 20/2010)*, under ***The Provincial Parks Act.***
- an amendment to each of the, the *Vehicle Use in Hunting Regulation (184/2009)*, the *Trapping of Wild Animals Regulation (123/2009)*, the *General Hunting Regulation (182/2009)*, the *Wildlife Protection Regulation (130/2009)*, two amendments to *Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Regulation (85/2009, 152/2009)*, three amendments to the *Use of Wildlife Lands Regulation (81/2009, 82/2009,183/2009)* and four amendments to the *Designation of Wildlife Lands Regulation (88/2009, 136/2009, 137/2009, 168/2009)* under ***The Wildlife Act***.

- More detail regarding the contents of the legislative and regulatory initiatives identified above may be found in those sections of this report that provide program-specific descriptions of activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Intergovernmental Affairs and Strategic Policy

- Support was provided to the Minister and Deputy Minister in their official activities representing Manitoba in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment forum (CCME).
- The Branch worked cooperatively with other Canadian jurisdictions and the CCME Secretariat to coordinate and advance environmental management issues across Canada, including leading the development of improved environmental assessment practices across Canada, and helping with Manitoba's implementation of the national wastewater strategy.
- Support was provided to the Conservation Minister as a member of the Governmental Committee for Canada's representation on the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation.
- The Branch participated as Manitoba's representative on the following intergovernmental committees:
  - North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (Canada Implementation Working Committee and Canada Implementation Senior Officials Committee), and
  - CCME committees, including the Environmental Protection and Planning Committee and as co-chair of the Environmental Assessment Committee.
- The Branch represented the department in trade matters related to the Agreement on Internal Trade, including representing the department in development and implementation of the Environment chapter and Processing of Natural Resources chapter, NAFTA and GATT/WTO agreements, coordinating activities associated with implementation of NAFTA, monitoring trade developments in environment and natural resource issues, and liaising with other departments and jurisdictions on trade matters involving environment and natural resources.
- The Branch led, on behalf of the department and government, the development of an annual work plan with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).
- The Branch provided support and liaison on the government's climate change, water stewardship and Green Manitoba activities.

Sustainable Development Implementation

- The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development met three times during the year, as required under *The Sustainable Development Act*. The Branch, as Secretariat, organized meetings of the Round Table, its task groups and committees and also coordinated the preparation of the 2008/09 Manitoba Round Table annual report.
- The Manitoba Round Table awarded Sustainable Development Scholarships to two students in Manitoba – one for graduate research on reclaiming phosphate as a usable fertilizer from hog lagoons, the other for undergraduate studies and personal efforts that reflect a commitment to the principles of sustainable development.
- The Manitoba Round Table awarded the 2009 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards. Among the 8 winners was Bison Transport Inc who received the Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability Award for their creative approaches to improving fuel efficiency and reducing the environmental impacts of freight transport.
- The Branch continued to be the point of contact for facilitating the implementation of Sustainable Development across government and demonstrating leadership.
- The Branch led a comprehensive interdepartmental working group that was formed to provide guidance and assistance in the development of the 2009 Provincial Sustainability Report for Manitoba.

Crown Lands Policy and Planning

- The Branch prepared 29 Crown land sale, lease, and permit review reports for the consideration of the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee. The 2009 *Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans* report was published and distributed. Approximately 3,175 recommended Crown land use classification code changes to Crown land plans were tabled with the Committee for the 2010 report. Submissions for the establishment of the Kaskatamagan Sipi and Kaskatamagan Wildlife Management Areas were also presented to the Committee and were subsequently approved.
- The Branch continued to provide secretariat support to Bloc Panning Committee # 2/3.
- The Branch coordinated the review and developed departmental positions with respect to 287 proposed Crown land dispositions, i.e., purchase, lease permit, license of occupation, reservation, easement and assignment applications.
- Advice and support were provided to the Protected Areas Initiative and related activities, including discussions and development of draft agreements with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives with respect to agriculturally coded Crown lands, and with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada regarding Crown lands in community pastures.
- A departmental review of the issues, policy and legislation with respect to All Terrain Vehicle use on Crown land was continued by the Branch.
- The Branch also continued to build the Crown land use classification GIS database for southern Manitoba. The database is now complete and available for electronic download via the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) website. The 2009 Interdepartmental Crown Land Plans report was generated via electronic measures using the GIS database to generate the maps. The integrity of the layout maps are currently being evaluated and adjusted for consistency. As well, enhancement of the digital presentation element of the database is underway which will enhance distribution, publication and accessibility (e.g., utilization Google Maps, pdf booklet production).

- An update and electronic conversion of the Site Plan Index has been initiated. The digital Site Plan Index will be incorporated into the Crown land use classification GIS database and will provide up-to-date electronic versions of site plans.

- Work is underway to create an operational manual that will identify the protocols required to manage, maintain and administer the Crown land use classification GIS database / Site Plan Index.

Municipal and First Nation Land Planning and Other Department Projects

- The Branch coordinated the review and prepared departmental positions for :
    - 332 proposed land subdivisions (Red River Region only);
    - 122 proposed municipal zoning by-laws and amendments;
    - 97 proposed development plans and amendments, and
    - 29 other proposed municipal land related issues.

- The latest revision of the Provincial Land Use Policies for which Manitoba Conservation is the lead department was coordinated by the Branch.

- The interdepartmental review of the Asatiwisipe Aki Management Plan of the Poplar River First Nation was coordinated.

- The Branch received a request from each of the Poplar River First Nation, the Pauingassi First Nation and the Bloodvein River First Nation for designation of a planning area under *The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act.*

- The Branch coordinated the review and prepared departmental positions for:
    - 20 highway developments and aggregate exploration programs
    - 6 oil and gas sale tenders and oil battery developments
    - 4 integrated watershed management plans

- The Branch responded to 55 *Environment Act* proposals.

Licensing Advisory Committee

- The Licensing Advisory Committee held six regularly scheduled and two additional meetings. A total of 170 applications were reviewed and recommendations developed for consideration of the Administrator of Resource Tourism.
- Approximately 1,400 annual licenses and/or permits were issued to lodge operators and outfitters.
- Two appeal hearings were conducted by the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee.
- Client services on a direct basis were continued, providing advice and information on the application process and outfitter requirements.
- Policy advice and support was provided to the Advisory Committee and the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee on a number of non-compliance and enforcement issues.

Special Conservation Fund

- The Fund granted $104,614 to 8 applicants during the fiscal year.

Table SR.1

12.4(b) Sustainable Resource and Policy Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,053	15.00	1,050	3	
Other Expenditures	187		236	(49)	
Grant Assistance	138		145	(7)	
Total 12.4(b)	**1,378**	**15.00**	**1,431**	**(53)**	

Corporate Crown Land Policy

Reporting to the Lands Committee of Deputy Ministers, Corporate Crown Land Policy provides consulting services to various departments regarding Government-wide Crown land policies and practices to ensure effective horizontal governance.

Key Results Achieved

The Government's Breezy Point Crown Land Subdivision Cottage Buy-out Program was developed to mitigate the continued risk to human lives due to frequent flooding in the area. Provisions under the new program were developed and coordinated for the voluntary termination of Crown land leases / permits and offers to purchase cottages and improvements. Development of the new program included appeal mechanisms, terms of compensation, legal agreements, communications and issues management. Forty-two (42) residential lot holders and one commercial entity were involved in the Government buy-out offers.

Corporate Crown Land Policy coordinated inter-departmental efforts involved in the decommissioning of the North Breezy Point Crown Land Subdivision to restore the land to its natural state.

Secretariat support and policy services were provided to the Lands Committee of Deputy Ministers. The Committee scrutinizes proposed Crown land transactions and makes recommendations to Cabinet and Ministers regarding Crown land dispositions and related matters. Eight departments with an interest in Crown land are represented on this Committee.

The Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee, chaired by Corporate Crown Land Policy, considered written requests by applicants to review departmental decisions relating to denial of applications for Crown land dispositions. It also reviewed the suitability of proposed designation of Crown land by Orders-in-Council and endorsed Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans and reviewed various recommendations from Bloc Planning committees respecting land use matters.

A review and audit of agricultural Crown land leases and permits was initiated to compare application processing turnaround times since administrative responsibilities were transferred from Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives to Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation's Crown Lands and Property Agency.

Corporate Crown Land Policy assisted in reviewing the interface between the new policy governing the circulation of proposed Crown land dispositions to First Nations and the Crown's interim Aboriginal consultation policy.

Work continued with legal counsel regarding information disclosure and privacy protection policies and practises when circulating Crown land applications among departments and government entities.

Guidance and advice were provided to various departments regarding inter-relationships, authorities, policies and administrative matters concerning Crown lands and coordinated efforts in acquiring land in support of the new Upper Fort Garry Provincial Heritage Park.

Corporate Crown Land Policy participated in several inter-departmental committees and working groups to represent Government Crown land policy interests.

Key Program Outputs

Review and analysis of 83 proposed sales, transfers and exchanges of Crown land were completed for consideration by the Lands Committee of Deputy Ministers prior to seeking Cabinet or Ministerial approvals.

As Chair of the Crown Lands Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee, responded to 26 requests for review of denied applications for Crown land and reviewed four proposed designated areas of Crown land.

Table CLP.1
12.4(c) Corporate Crown Land Policy

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	139	2.00	270	(131)	
Other Expenditures	12		28	(16)	
Total 12.4(c)	**151**	**2.00**	**298**	**(147)**	

Environmental Assessment and Licensing

Description

The Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch (the Branch) is responsible to administer the environmental assessment process under the ***Manitoba Environment Act (the Act***), as well as regulations under ***the Act.*** Specifically the Branch is responsible to ensure that potential adverse environmental and public health effects of new and existing developments are regulated through appropriate licence and permit conditions. The Branch administers:

- the environmental assessment and licensing process for developments under *The Environment Act* and *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act;*
- the certification process for operators under the *Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation*; and
- the permitting of pesticide use under *The Pesticides Regulation.*

Key Results Achieved

Development in Manitoba was successfully regulated to ensure environmental sustainability for present and future Manitobans.

The Environmental Assessment and Licensing process remains effective, transparent, and continues to meet all legislative and regulatory requirements, including the opportunity for public involvement and participation. Innovative approaches to environmental protection have resulted in timely reviews and approvals for new developments. Manitoba's environmental assessment process compares favourably to other Canadian jurisdictions.

Information regarding the environmental assessment process, pesticide requirements, major and minor Notices of Alteration, and operator certification was made available to the public through a much expanded and improved branch web site. There will be an ongoing effort to ensure that members of the public have access to the information required to comply with programs regulated by the branch. Increased availability of files electronically has been achieved and will continue to be a direction in the future.

Land use, municipal, industrial, and hazardous waste sources of pollutants were managed through appropriate licence specifications, limits, terms and conditions. Conditions ensured protection at all project stages (construction through to decommissioning). Compliance inspections and monitoring ensured that conditions were adhered to by licencees.

Adverse effects to the environment and public health from pesticide use were minimized through appropriate permit specifications, limits, terms and conditions. Complaints were followed up through compliance inspections and field visits. Liaison with the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency ensured that only approved products were permitted and used in Manitoba. The branch continued a review of government policy in the use of cosmetic pesticides which began during the 2008/09 fiscal year.

The branch assisted members of the public with interpretation of *the Environmental Act, the Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act*, and supporting regulations.

The branch provided recommendations and policy advice to the Minister of Conservation on a wide variety of environmental and public health matters.

Key Program Outputs

- Reviewed and approved over 100 development applications and/or Notices of Alteration under *The Environment Act*, and *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act,* as well as 223 permits under The Pesticide Regulation. The Branch led the environmental assessment process for these developments, including the direction of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) within the provincial and federal governments. The Branch ensured that all new developments were processed in accordance with *the Environment Act* and assured that the public had opportunity to participate and provide input to the proposals.

- Conducted approximately 190 on-site inspections to ensure license conditions were being followed. Inspections were documented and tracked until any issues were resolved. Liaison with regional field personnel ensured compliance and enforcement actions were done effectively.
- Responded to enquiries regarding the need for environmental assessment and licensing for specific projects, and regarding the interpretation and implementation of licence and permit conditions.
- The branch reviewed and approved numerous reports required under licenses, such as Environment Protection Plans for Construction, monitoring, and other environmental programs.
- The branch participated in several public meetings as required in support of applications or local issues and/or concerns. There were no Clean Environment Commission hearings in 2009/10.

Table EA.1

Environmental Assessment and Licensing Activities
(ELU - Environmental Land Use; P - Pesticide; MIHW - Municipal, Industrial, and Hazardous Waste)

Activities	**ELU (#)**		**P (#)**		**MIHW (#)**		**Total**	
	09-10	**08-09**	**09-10**	**08-09**	**09-10**	**08-09**	**09-10**	**08-09**
The Environment Act								
Project proposals received	15	23	5	8	22	32	**42**	**63**
Project proposals processed	16	20	4	7	24	39	**44**	**66**
Project proposals refused	0	0	1	0	0	0	**1**	**0**
Minor alterations requests received	14	12	11	1	26	19	**51**	**32**
Minor alterations requests processed	14	9	11	1	26	18	**51**	**28**
Revision requests to *Licences* approved	3	5	0	1	8	5	**11**	**11**
Pre-Licensing activities processed	13	18	0	0	29	35	**42**	**53**
Highways pre-planning reviews	3	4	0	0	0	0	**3**	**4**
Infrastructure project reviews-Can/Man	17	15	0	0	0	0	**17**	**15**
Hydro Low Voltage reviews	3	0	0	0	0	0	**3**	**0**
Other Reviews. Licence not required	29	25	0	0	19	16	**48**	**41**
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement	83	90	34	34	74	90	**191**	**214**
Pesticide Use Permits Issued	0	0	223	241	0	0	**223**	**241**
Post Seasonal Reports received/compiled	0	0	223	237	0	0	**223**	**241**
Public complaints investigated	2	4	8	8	22	16	**32**	**28**
Public meetings attended	0	3	3	0	1	1	**4**	**4**
Public Hearings attended	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	**0**
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act								
Project proposals received					6	7	**7**	**5**
Project proposals processed					3	5	**5**	**4**
Minor alterations requests received					6	6	**6**	**6**
Minor alterations requests processed					6	6	**6**	**5**
Pre-Licensing activities					14	14	**14**	**14**
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement					10	6	**6**	**3**
Public meetings attended					0	0	**0**	**0**

Activities	**ELU (#)**		**P (#)**		**MIHW (#)**		**Total**	
	09-10	**08-09**	**09-10**	**08-09**	**09-10**	**08-09**	**09-10**	**08-09**
The Public Health Act								
Fumigation Permits issued			1	2			1	2
Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Regulation								
Certification Examination					560	559	**559**	**559**
Plant Classifications Issued					154	97	**154**	**97**
Operators Certificates Issued					383	292	**383**	**292**

Table EA.2

12.4(d) Environmental Assessment and Licensing

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	**Actual 2009/10**	**Estimate 2009/10**		**Variance Over/(Under)**	**Expl. No.**
	$(000)	**FTE**	**$(000)**	**$(000)**	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,370	19.00	1,477	(107)	
Other Expenditures	263		277	(14)	
Total 12.4(d)	**1,633**	**19.00**	**1,754**	**(121)**	

Aboriginal Relations

The Branch was established to build the relationship between the Department and the Aboriginal people of Manitoba. It is necessary to maintain this level of commitment in order to meet the increasing requirements of the Aboriginal community and Manitoba Conservation.

In providing leadership and direction for the Department, the Branch participates in strategic planning processes, such as development of policies, legislation, and programs to ensure that Aboriginal and Treaty rights are recognized and respected. The Branch is accountable for the research, analysis, development, implementation and evaluation of new and existing resource programs. The Branch is also engaged in development of integrated resource policies, legislation relating to land use, co-management, resource allocation, environmental impacts, and sustainable development initiatives. As well as, facilitate communication between the various user interests and the Department

The Branch continues to play an instrumental role in developing and implementing the Crown's Consultation policy when dealing with First Nation/Métis/Aboriginal people. The branch has always maintained that the consultation policy will be reviewed with First Nations prior to being finalized. The foremost principle of consultation is to reconcile the relationship between the Crown and First Nations people/Métis/Aboriginal people. This can only be achieved by engaging in dialogue. The branch continues to advocate for this to occur and maintains dialogue amongst the parties should be considered beyond all non consultation based matters.

Key Results Achieved:

- Advocates that appropriate and meaningful Crown Consultation is undertaken with First Nation and Aboriginal communities when any government decision may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a Treaty or Aboriginal right.
- Met with Aboriginal communities to identify respective concerns and issues, and assisted in developing action plans to resolve Aboriginal community issues.
- Created and fostered partnerships with Aboriginal leaders and communities that will build positive relationships in relations to program development, advocacy and capacity building.
- Provided direction for the Department and Aboriginal communities in natural resource management programs and issues.
- Provided educational information through varied media to the Department, Aboriginal, and non-Aboriginal communities.
- Participated in discussions to develop formal agreement for managing natural resources.
- Attended meetings and gatherings in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and with the various users of natural resources.
- Responded to inquiries from the Department, resource users, public and educational institutions.

Key Program Outputs:

- Participated as members of the Crown Consultation Teams and the Crown Consultation Steering Committees in Crown Consultation processes with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by government decisions.

- Established and implemented the *Speakers Bureau Workshop Series* to provide a forum for Department staff to hear presentation on the current issues surrounding First Nation and Aboriginal people. The series is designed to provide an opportunity for Department staff to be informed and understand the history of the various issues.

- Implement, monitor and assist when requested on the various Memorandum of Understanding agreements that are signed by the minister.

- Discussed with Aboriginal leaders, communities and individuals, the formation dialogue forums and communication processes between the Department and Manitoba Aboriginal communities.
- Continue dialogue with Aboriginal resource users as requested by communities.

Table AR.1

12.4(e) Aboriginal Relations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	480	6.00	540	(60)	
Other Expenditures	133		261	(128)	
Total 12.4(e)	**613**	**6.00**	**801**	**(188)**	

Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin

The Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Planning Initiative on the east side of Lake Winnipeg involves the participation of the Province of Manitoba and First Nation communities of Berens River, Black River, Bloodvein, Bunibonibee, Garden Hill, God's Lake, Hollow Water, Little Grand Rapids, Manto Sipi, Pauingassi, Poplar River, Red Sucker Lake, St Theresa Point and Wasagamack.

On April 3, 2007, the *Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Council of Chiefs Accord* was signed to confirm a government-to-government relationship between the WNO First Nation governments and the Government of Manitoba, reinforce the foundation for traditional area land use planning, and assist in the establishment of Regional Resource Management Boards. It was also agreed that the Province contribute $500,000.00 annually (over a 5 year period), but not limited to, to support this activity in addition to continued resources for technical and secretariat support.

Key Results Achieved:

The WNO Secretariat:

- provided administrative, planning and research support to its principal bodies, the WNO Council and the WNO Council of Chiefs;
- provided comments and recommendations on community traditional area land use planning activity reports to the WNO Council of Chiefs Incorporated (WNO Inc.), who lead and manage the development of traditional area land use plans and administer and disperse its funds;
- prepared funding proposals for land use planning on behalf of the WNO Inc., over and above the provincial contribution; and
- facilitated work towards establishing several regional resource management boards (RRMBs) on the east side.

Key Program Outputs:

- The WNO Council of Chiefs Inc. allocated nearly $400 thousand to First Nations for traditional area land use planning and to-date, just over $1.3 million has been allocated.
- Ten Community Traditional Area Land Use Plan (TALUP) Coordinators were trained to document and map First Nation traditional knowledge (TK) at the community level, through interviews with elders, trappers and other community land users.
- A funding proposal was submitted to Environment Canada's Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (ASFAR) program to provide the WNO Inc. with funds to purchase equipment for WNO Community TALUP Coordinators to assist them in their land planning work.

  A Contribution Agreement, to a maximum amount of $75,000, was signed between HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA and the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Council of Chiefs Inc. to enable the WNO Inc. to purchase the land planning equipment.
- A Traditional Area Land Use Planning Workshop was held for Community TALUP Coordinators at which Coordinators were provided with laptop computers to store information and prepare reports and presentations, global positioning system (GPS) units to accurately locate features on the landscape, and audio and video recorders to document interviews.

  Coordinators were also introduced to Environment Canada's Boreal Woodland Caribou National Recovery Strategy and their roles in its process were discussed.

- A second funding proposal was submitted to Environment Canada's ASFAR program to provide two, two-day training sessions in the application of GPS instruments and GIS mapping to WNO Community TALUP Coordinators.

- A funding proposal was prepared under Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's First Nations Infrastructure Fund (FNIF) program to provide longer term training and support in GIS applications for WNO Community TALUP Coordinators through ESRI Canada.

- Progress continued on negotiations to establish new RRMBs on the east side. Draft agreements have undergone legal reviews by the Province and the Kee-Ootinetan Kitaskiinaan RRMB (Bunibonibee, God's Lake and Manto Sipi Cree Nations), the Paskonasheeng RRMB (Garden Hill, Red Sucker Lake, St. Theresa Point and Wasagamack First Nations) and the Wahbanong Nopemeing RRMB (Bloodvein, Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations). The Province contributed $27,500 to assist First Nations in their legal reviews.

- The WNO website (http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wno/index.html) is updated on an on-going basis.

Table WA.1

12.4(f) Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	902	0.00	1,075	(173)	1.
Total 12.4(f)	**902**	**0.00**	**1,075**	**(173)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to reduced meeting and travel related costs for traditional land use planning and community consultations.

Protected Areas

Protected Areas Initiative

Description:

- The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) contributes to long-term sustainable development by assembling a network of core protected areas designed to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba. Protected areas consist of land, freshwater, or marine areas that are free from oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric development, logging, mining, and other activities that may significantly and adversely affect habitat. Protected lands can include national parks, ecological reserves, provincial parks and park reserves, wildlife management areas, provincial forests and privately owned conservation lands that meet the province's definition of protected.

- The goal of the PAI is to establish, for each of the 18 natural regions and sub-regions of the province, a network of protected areas containing an adequate and representative sample of the region's diverse landscapes. A geographic information system (GIS) is used to identify and evaluate potential areas, and track progress towards meeting this goal.

Key Results Achieved:

- New protected areas were established in southern Manitoba (agro-Manitoba), in the Manitoba Lowlands in southeast Manitoba (Natural Region 5c), and in the Hudson Bay Lowlands (Natural Regions 2b and 3). In addition, Chitek Lake and Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserves were renewed until September 2014. Work continued in other priority areas, including the Saskatchewan River Delta (Natural Region 5a), the Arctic Tundra (Natural Region 2a), the Northern Transition Forest (Natural Regions 1a and 1b) and a number of smaller sites proposed as ecological reserves. Most of these activities involve sites within the boreal region.

- The Protected Areas Initiative continued to work closely with conservation agencies, such as Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Ducks Unlimited Canada, to advance protection efforts in southern Manitoba where much of the land is privately owned. The province committed $7.0 million over the next five years to support the NCC Natural Areas Conservation Program to acquire and preserve ecologically significant lands in 8 targeted priority areas in southern Manitoba. The NCC has made significant acquisitions over the past year, securing and managing over 2,000 hectares of tall grass prairie (Rural Municipality of Stuartburn in south-eastern Manitoba), aspen parkland (Riding Mountain Aspen Parkland area in western Manitoba) and land in the Whitemouth River Watershed.

- The PAI also identified Manitoba's marine protected areas for the national Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System, which reports to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Key Program Outputs:

New Protected Areas	Area (hectares)	Protected Under
Pembina Valley Wildlife Management Area Addition	129	*The Wildlife Act*
Pinawa Dam Provincial Park Expansion	87.5	*The Provincial Parks Act*
Kaskatamagan Wildlife Management Area	259,530	*The Wildlife Act*
Kaskatamagan Sipi Wildlife Management Area	133,820	*The Wildlife Act*

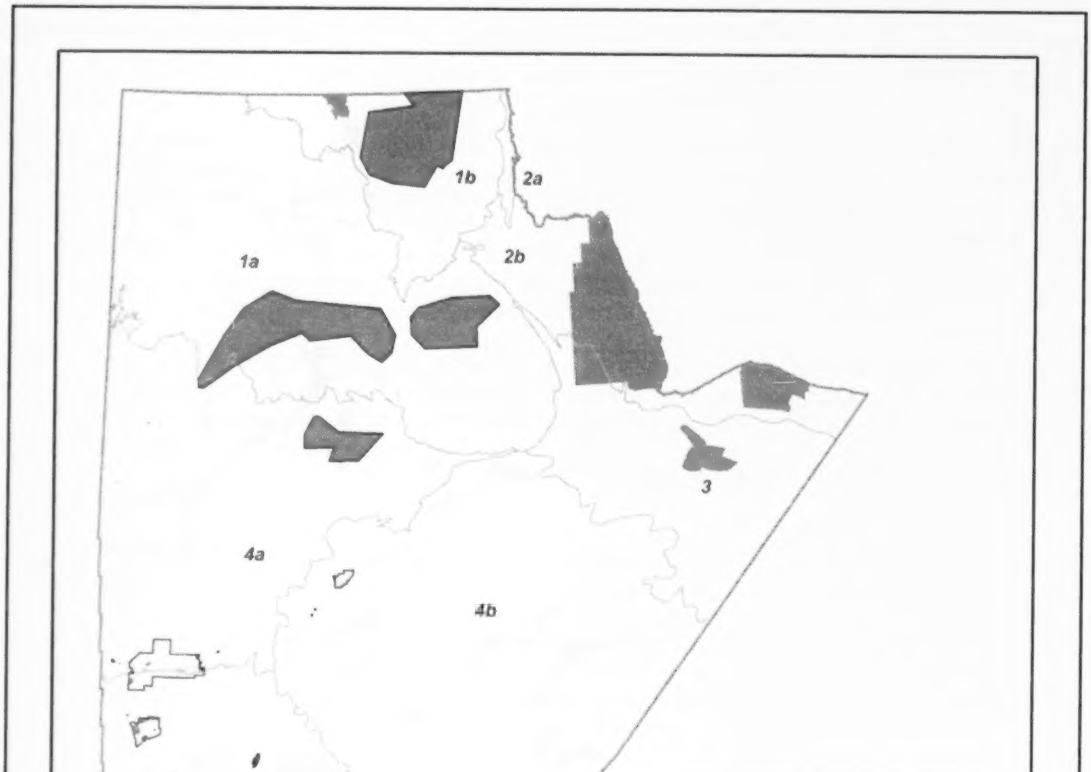
- Currently, 5.8 million hectares (or 9.0 per cent of Manitoba) are protected. This includes two national parks, 22 ecological reserves, all or parts of 43 provincial parks and interim protected park reserves, all or parts of 50 wildlife management areas, parts of two provincial forests, and private lands owned by Ducks Unlimited Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Nature Manitoba (formerly Manitoba Naturalists Society).

Table PR.1
12.4(g) Protected Areas

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	476	6.00	426	50	
Other Expenditures	330		365	(35)	
Grant Assistance	905		340	565	1.
Total 12.4(g)	**1,711**	**6.00**	**1,131**	**580**	

1. Over expenditure in Grant Assistance is due to grant assistance to Pimachiowin Aki Corporation in support of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination.

Figure 6: Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas


1a
1b
2a
2b
3
4a
4b
4c
5a
5b
5c
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7
8
9
10
11
12
Legend
▨ Protected Area
☐ Provincial Park
Natural Regions
1 Northern Transition Forest
2 Arctic Tundra
3 Hudson Bay Lowlands
4 Precambrian Boreal Forest
5 Manitoba Lowlands
6 Aspen/Oak Parkland
7 Western Upland
8 Souris Till Plain
9 Tall Grass Prairie
10 Turtle Mountain
11 Pembina/Tiger Hills
12 Assiniboine Delta

Pollution Prevention

Working with local governments, non-government organizations, business and industry associations and other agencies, the Branch promotes initiatives to foster efficient use of resources and best practices that avoids or minimizes pollution and waste, and supports these and other provincial initiatives through the management and administration of grant funding programs. The Branch develops policy, strategies, legislation and regulations, and programs to reduce waste, prevent pollution and protect the stratospheric ozone layer.

The ***Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act*** and the ***Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Act*** are administered by the Branch. The Branch manages the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) established under Part 7 of the ***Sustainable Development Act*** and three of its broad allocation funding initiatives, namely the SDIF Open Category, Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund and the Environmental Youth Corps (EYC).

Key Results Achieved:

Waste Reduction and Prevention

The Branch continued to focus on programs that aim to:
- promote producer responsibility for post-consumer product management;
- encourage strategic public private sector partnerships to address environmental issues;
- reduce volume of waste generated and disposed; and
- improve waste management facility operations and planning.

Regulated programs under *The WRAP Act* recycled 98,788 tonnes of material in 2009/2010, including 14,373 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, 71,006 tonnes of packaging and paper through municipal recycling programs and 14,078 tonnes of used oil products. The amount of material collected through these programs increased by 1,942 tonnes from the previous year.

The Branch continued to work with Green Manitoba to finalize and implement new regulatory requirements under *The WRAP Act* to address priority waste streams as identified in Manitoba's Green and Growing Strategy. The *Household Hazardous Material and Prescribed Material Stewardship Regulation and the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulation* were passed in February 2010. The new Regulations are based on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and make the "stewards" of packaging and printed paper responsible for organizing and supporting a program to recycle those materials.

The branch hosted an information session with industry stakeholders in March. Program plans are being developed for submission by August, with program launch to occur in April 2011. The plans will be based on requirements outlined in the Guidelines which accompany the Regulations. More information on the regulations and program plans is available at: www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention.

Multi-Material Recycling

In September 2009, Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) received ministerial approval for a new Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Program.

The Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC) paid out $8,467,802 in Recycling Support Payments to Municipal recycling programs during 2009/10. Through these programs, 71,006 Tonnes of material was recycled, equivalent to 60 kgs per person.

Table PP.1
Residential Recycling Statistics

Eligible Material	Total Recycled 2008-2009 (Kg's)	Total Recycled 2009-2010 (Kg's)	Change from previous fiscal year	Average Kgs Recycled Per Manitoban (2006 pop. = 1,170,300)
Newspapers, Magazines, Flyers & Telephone Directories	37,443,826	37,024,808	(419,018)	32.00
Corrugated Cardboard	9,409,253	10,182,415	773,162	8.7
PET Plastics	2,516,160	2,583,965	67,805	2.21
4, 5, & 7 Rigid Plastics	1,188,132	2,080,151	892,019	1.78
Glass Containers	5,900,561	6,019,388	118,827	5.14
Boxboard	6,000,204	5,830,447	(169,757)	4.98
Aluminum Cans	1,100,119	1,181,921	81,802	1.01
Metal Cans	2,922,020	3,061,683	139,663	2.61
Polycoat & Aseptic Containers	1,264,712	1,272,628	7,916	1.09
HDPE Containers	2,592,788	1,768,907	(823881)	1.51
Total Eligible Materials	**70,337,775**	**71,006,313**	**668,538**	**60.67**

Tire Recycling

Tire Stewardship Manitoba (TSM) is a not-for-profit industry association formed as a stewardship agency to represent the tire retailers of Manitoba who manage a province-wide scrap tire recycling program. TSM operated under the authority of the *Tire Stewardship Regulation, 2008* and a letter of approval from the Minister of Conservation. More information on TSM is available at: www.tirestewardshipmb.ca.

In 2009, a total of 14,373 tonnes of scrap tires were processed from 15,440 tonnes of new tires sold, for a diversion rate of 93%. This represents 12.2 kilograms of scrap tires diverted for every Manitoban.

Table PP.2
Products from Scrap Tires (2009)

Product Breakdown

Product	Tonnes	Percentage
Molded	255	2%
Crumb	117	1%
Sidewalls	435	3%
Tire Derived Aggregate (TDA)	10,721	75%
Blast / Temporary Mats	624	4%
Tire Derived Fuel (TDF)	2,221	15%
	14,373	100%

Used Oil Recycling

The Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corp. (MARRC) is a non-profit corporation established by manufacturers and marketers of lubricating products in Manitoba to operate a province-wide stewardship program for used oil, used oil filters and used oil containers. MARRC operates under the authority of the *Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation* and a letter of approval from the Minister of Conservation.

MARRC has 153 members, and as part of their membership agreement, vendors pay Environmental Handling Charges based on product sales. In total, 53 Eco-Centres have been established in partnership with municipal governments and 22 privately operated depots collect used oil, filters and containers.

Oil recovery remained steady at 12.5 Million Litres or 70% of the estimated amount recoverable, while filter recovery decreased slightly to 1.61 million filters, or 77% of sales. A total of 232,000 kgs of oil containers were recovered, for a 29% recovery rate. Further information on MARRC is available at: www.usedoilrecycling.com.

Table PP.3

Used Oil Products Recycled/Collected, 2009

Material	Quantity	% 2008 Recovered	% 2009 Recovered
Oil	12.7 Million Litres	72%	70%
Oil Filters	1.68 Million	85%	77%
Oil Containers	235,000 kilograms	27%	29%

Pollution Prevention

Branch staff represented Manitoba on the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Pollution Prevention Network and chaired the review panel for the Pollution Prevention Awards and Recognition Program. The CCME awards program recognizes Canadian companies and organizations showing leadership in pollution prevention, innovation and greenhouse gas reduction. Seven recipients were honoured at the 2009 Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Pollution Prevention Awards dinner in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on June 15, 2009. Additional details about the CCME Pollution Prevention Awards are available at: www.ccme.ca/ourwork/pollution.html.

Ozone Depleting Substances

Staff continued to participate on the Federal-Provincial Working Group (FPWG) on Ozone Depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives and met to consult on provincial and federal harmonization approaches for the continued implementation of the 2001 National *Action Plan (NAP) for the Environmental Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and Their Halocarbon Alternatives*. The FPWG is responsible for developing and implementing Canada's National Action Plan (NAP) which outlines how ODS and other halocarbons will be controlled, reduced and eliminated in Canada. The NAP was created to meet national and international commitments under the Montreal Protocol. The latest NAP was approved by the CCME in 2001 and requires federal and provincial jurisdictions to implement measures to eliminate the release of ODS and alternatives into the environment.

Staff continued to work on the implementation of 2005 regulatory amendments to encourage the orderly transition from CFCs and Halons to alternative substances and technologies. Staff met with the Manitoba Halon Working Group to assist industry and business owners with the Halon use phase-out and transition to alternative substances.

Support continued for Refrigerant Management Canada (RMC), a national voluntary industry stewardship organization and its comprehensive halocarbon stewardship program for the proper management, collection and disposal of obsolete and surplus ODS. As of March 31, 2010 RMC accepted and processed 1,892,981 kgs of high and low pressure refrigerants and destroyed 1,719,7494 kgs of refrigerant waste.

Administration of an Annual Appointment Agreement between Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA) was continued. The Agreement allows MOPIA to undertake administrative tasks under the *Manitoba Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbon Regulation* (103/94) and continue its role as a service provider in issuing permits and collecting annual records and fees.

In 2009, 5,265 trained service technicians' certificates, 340 secondary distributor permits and 22 irreplaceable equipment permits for Class 1 Halon fixed fire extinguishing equipment were issued. MOPIA held a series of industry information sessions throughout Manitoba, implemented a new training curriculum and a series of environmental awareness training sessions were held as part of the trades training program for Manitoba service technicians. Further information on MOPIA is available at www.mopia.ca.

Funding Programs

The Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF), administered by the Branch, supports innovative solutions to environmental issues. In addition to administering the overall Fund, the Branch managed the following targeted broad allocations:

- SDIF Open Category
- Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund
- Environmental Youth Corps (EYC)

Branch staff continued its membership with Building Energy Management Manitoba (BEMM) and Canadian Environmental Grantmakers' Network (CEGN). The CEGN is a broad network of organizations that make environmental grants in Canada and provides a national format for information-sharing, collaboration and contributing towards expanding the scope and effectiveness of environmental grant-making in Canada.

Staff represented the department on the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative Management Committee. The initiative brings together several departments including Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Health, and Conservation and is intended to promote healthy food choices and support the development of local food sources in northern Manitoba.

In response to the Provincial Auditor General's report and recommendations on the SDIF, work continued in developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Sustainable Development Innovation Fund (SDIF) and its *Open Category* projects.

Details on approved projects funded through the SDIF are provided in a separate *Annual Report* tabled in the Legislature. More information on the Fund is available at: www.susdev.gov.mb.ca.

Table PP.4
12.4(h) Pollution Prevention

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	404	5.00	339	65	
Other Expenditures	598		593	5	
Total 12.4(h)	**1,002**	**5.00**	**932**	**70**	

Air Quality Management

Air Quality Management's mandate is to monitor and safeguard the quality of Manitoba's air for the benefit of citizens today as well as for future generations. To achieve its mandate, the Section:

- Develops and reviews objectives and guidelines for air pollutants of concern;
- Monitors ambient (outdoor) air quality in urban areas and near selected industrial sources to measure adherence to objectives and guidelines;
- Undertakes special air quality projects;
- Provides scientific and technical support to the Department, other agencies and the public;
- Prepares reports and evaluates peer reports;
- Assists in the review and assessment of developments and provides comments for environmental licensing;
- Participates in the development and implementation of national strategies; and
- Assists in the delivery of other departmental programs.

Table AQ.1
Air Quality Activities

Activity	Number
National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) – number of urban stations operated	2
Monitoring industries with air emissions – number of stations operated	2[1]
Participation in regional/national air issues and strategies	5
Support to major Department activities	2
Proposals/Licences under The Environment Act and The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act; The Oil and Gas Act - Oil Well Battery Operating Permit Applications	
Reviewed	25
Comments provided	11
Requests for detailed technical air quality information (data, criteria, technical information, etc.) and presentations	as required

Key Results Achieved:

- The Section continued to successfully monitor outdoor ambient air quality at the established provincial sites, audited the air quality monitoring activities of others, as required under regulatory provisions, and, when required, made recommendations for improvements. Air quality data statistics for 2008 were released publicly.
- Fulfilled provincial obligations as required by the existing federal/provincial Memorandum of Understanding for operation of the National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) program. New replacement instrumentation were installed and placed into operation.
- Commenced major upgrades to the air quality data systems for the handling and management of air quality data readings:
  - Migration of the database server to a central hosted serviced for the old system

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[1] One site operated with assistance from Regional Operations.

  - Installation of new hardware and software at each of the remote air quality monitoring sites for the new air quality data system
  - Work underway for hosted service of the centralized software operations for the new data system.
- Assisted Environment/Health Canada in the successful launch of the near real-time Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) for Winnipeg in June 2009 and its continuing release. See http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/airquality/aq-health/ for more information.
- Played a lead role in the continuing Flin Flon area human health risk assessment for exposure to metals in soils, its joint governance with the Government of Saskatchewan and coordination of the Department's participation in the process and related activities.
- Undertook program development and successful delivery of the second phase of soil improvements at selected parks and playgrounds in Flin Flon, as a precautionary measure to protect young children using the parks, from potential exposure to metals in soils as well as for the continued greening of the community. This included development of specifications for the work, contract process matters, budget development and interaction with partners. Plans were also made to complete remaining work in 2010/11.
- Provided technical and policy support to a number of Departmental activities. These included:
  - Providing input into the federal regulatory framework on air emissions (Clean Air Regulatory Agenda) and the national comprehensive air management system;
  - Management of releases from base metal smelters in Manitoba to protect local air quality;
  - On-going scientific and related monitoring activities to assess eco-system vulnerability to acidic deposition;
  - Review of air quality matters related to *Environment Act* proposals for Licensing and other related reviews;
  - Continued participation on the Department's core environmental Emergency Response Team to assist in response to releases or potential releases, of contaminants that may be detrimental to the environment or public health.
- More information on air quality management in Manitoba is available at: www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/airquality

Table AQ.2
12.4(i) Air Quality Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	**Actual 2009/10**	**Estimate 2009/10**		**Variance Over/(Under) $(000)**	**Expl. No.**
	$(000)	**FTE**	**$(000)**		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	327	4.00	303	24	
Other Expenditures	60		67	(7)	
Total 12.4(i)	**387**	**4.00**	**370**	**17**	

Climate Change Initiatives

Climate Change branch provides strategic planning and advice regarding existing climate policies and programs, and identifies opportunities for future activities. The branch is responsible for monitoring the provincial greenhouse gas emissions profile, and for measuring emissions reductions resulting from provincial initiatives. The Branch leads government's climate change policy and programming efforts and coordinates climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives across government.

OBJECTIVES

- To develop and coordinate government-wide climate change initiatives.
- To coordinate priority climate change mitigation initiatives together with lead departments as outlined in the government's *Beyond Kyoto* strategy.
- To advance climate change adaptation activities across government, including an assessment of future impacts and vulnerabilities.
- To promote cooperative partnerships with the federal government on climate change programs and green policy initiatives in Manitoba.
- To work together with Green Manitoba, the Energy Development Initiative and other departments and agencies of government to advance the implementation of Green House Gas (GHG) reduction and green economic development strategies across government and in the public and private sectors.
- To promote best practices in climate change action and green policy at the sub-national level.
- To continue in the promotion of climate change public awareness, education and action.

Key Results Achieved

- The Branch oversaw implementation of specific components of Manitoba's climate change plan and engaged with external departments to provide advice and monitor progress to assure broad implementation of Manitoba's climate change commitments.
- Manitoba is a founding member of The Climate Registry, which was established in May 2007 by states, tribes and provinces in North America as a mechanism to measure, track, verify and publicly report GHG emissions consistently across industry sectors and borders. The Registry is a non-profit organization governed by a board of directors of U.S. and Mexican state, tribal and Canadian provincial representatives which encourages voluntary early actions to increase energy efficiency and decrease GHG emissions.
- Manitoba became one of the first provinces in Canada to become a member of the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) in Spring 2007. The WCI facilitates collaboration amongst western states and provinces to reduce GHGs, establish a regional GHG goal and to design a market-based mechanism to achieve the targeted reductions.
- The department supported Manitoba's participation in the 2010 Climate Leader's Summit held at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The Branch coordinated Manitoba's participation and involvement in the Prairies Region Adaptation Collaborative (PRAC). This is joint initiative between the federal government, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and is intended to "mainstream" adaptation decision making into government policy.

Table CC.1

12.4(j) Climate Change Initiatives

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)		
Salaries and Employee Benefits	733	9.00	783	(50)	
Other Expenditures	509		595	(86)	
Grant Assistance	14		14	0	
Total 12.4(j)	**1,256**	**9.00**	**1,392**	**(136)**	

GREEN MANITOBA

Green Manitoba was created as a Special Operating Agency (SOA) effective April 1, 2006, by merging existing elements of the Departments of Science, Technology, Energy & Mines and Conservation. In its fourth year of operations, the SOA was moved to the Department of Conservation from the Department of Science, Technology, Energy and Mines. Since its inception, Green Manitoba has served as a service delivery agent for government departments and a wide range of public and private sector organizations to help create a greener and cleaner Manitoba.

The mission of Green Manitoba is to promote sustainability practices by bringing together all partners (governments, business and other stakeholder organizations) and in doing so achieves more than if each had acted alone. Green Manitoba serves as the access point for customers to acquire information about provincial sustainability issues. The Special Operating Agency delivers programs and services related to increasing energy efficiency, conserving water, reducing waste, reducing green house gas (GHG) emissions through climate change action, encouraging sustainable transportation practices and Education for Sustainability.

As a Special Operating Agency, Green Manitoba issues its own Business Plan and Annual Report with information on its mandate, activities and results. Copies of these reports can be obtained on Green Manitoba's website: www.greenmanitoba.ca.

Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) Fund

Description:

The "Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Fund" was established by amendment of the Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act in 2009, as a separate fund within the Consolidated Fund, for the following purpose of:

(a) providing support or incentives to municipalities and local government districts for recycling;
(b) supporting recycling programs and improvements to waste management, including management of electronic waste and household hazardous waste.

The WRARS Fund is administered by Green Manitoba, a Special Operating Agency of the Province of Manitoba.

Commencing July 1, 2009, the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) Levy of $10 per tonne was introduced on waste disposed at Manitoba landfills. All WRARS Levy revenue is held in The WRARS Fund. The WRARS Levy is intended to help discourage waste generation and encourage increased recycling and waste diversion activities province-wide.

After administrative cost recovery, eighty percent (80%) of the revenue collected from the WRARS Levy is rebated to municipalities to further promote recycling in Manitoba. The remainder of the funding is to be used to support provincial electronic waste (e-waste) and household hazardous waste (HHW) management programs. The WRARS Rebate is available to municipalities that have registered their municipal recycling program and either operate a WRARS registered landfill or deliver waste to a WRARS registered landfill.

WRARS Levy Implementation Dates

The WRARS Levy is being introduced in three (3) phases as follows:

- Phase 1: Beginning July 1, 2009, all Class 1 landfills receiving more than 30,000 tonnes of waste per year.
- Phase 2: Beginning January 1, 2010, all Class 1 landfill operators will be required to pay the WRARS Levy.

- Phase 3: Beginning January 1, 2011, all Class 2 and Class 3 landfill operators will begin to pay the WRARS Levy.

Key Results Achieved

- Introduction of the levy was successfully implemented for the July – December 2009 period with the four Class 1 landfills registered (City of Winnipeg – Brady Road Landfill, City of Brandon – Eastview Landfill, RM of Ritchot – MidCanada Environmental Services Ltd. - RM of Ritchot landfill and BFI Canada – Prairie Green Landfill.
- Municipal rebate payments totaling more than $3 million were issued in March 2010 to 15 eligible municipalities.
- Beginning January 1, 2010, the remaining Class 1 landfill operators are required to pay the WRARS Levy. A total of 15 Class 1 landfills were registered in 2009.

Key Program Outputs

- The WRARS Program Guide was developed and disseminated.
- The WRARS levy remittance and rebate administration processes were developed.
- The WRARS Fund payment requisition process was established.
- Supplemental funding support was made available for Green Manitoba's household hazardous waste and electronic waste management programs.

Table GM.1
12.4(k) Green Manitoba

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures and Grant Assistance	**5,009**		**4,250**	**759**	
Total 12.4(k)	**5,009**		**4,250**	**759**	

1. Over expenditure is due to the Electronic Waste Roundup Program and eco Trust project costs.

International Institute For Sustainable Development

The Institute promotes the concept of environmentally sustainable economic development and the integration of the principles and practices of sustainable development within and between the public, private and voluntary sectors on a national and international basis.

The Institute issues a separate Annual Report. Copies can be obtained from the Institute at 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y4. The Institute can be contacted at 204-958-7700.

Table IISD.1
12.5 International Institute for Sustainable Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Estimate 2009/10		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	1,196	0.00	1,196	0	
Total 12.5	**1,196**	**0.00**	**1,196**	**0**	

Minor Capital Projects

Critical Heritage Marshes

The Heritage Marsh Program incorporates marshes known to be of extraordinary importance to the well being of wildlife and people. Eight Heritage Marshes are formally recognized (Saskeram, Summerberry, Delta, Oak Hammock, Rat River, Grants Lake, Proven Lake, and Lidcliff), and an additional 19 have been identified as candidate marshes.

Support continued for research on the ecological health and future of Delta Marsh. Recognized locally and internationally as an important prairie wetland, the marsh ecosystem has undergone significant changes, in part due to relatively constant water levels brought on by the regulation of water levels on Lake Manitoba. Marshlands require a natural water regime that includes wet and drought cycles to maintain their biodiversity. A second consecutive year of studies was initiated in 2010 to examine the impacts of carp on marsh ecosystems and vegetation studies were carried out in partnership with the University of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

A broadly based technical committee was formed to study various means of addressing the management challenges affecting the Delta Marsh. It has made significant progress on designing structures to exclude adult carp while allowing smaller fish to come and go, as well as maintaining a free flow of water between Lake Manitoba and the marsh.

A research program in the Summerberry Heritage Marsh continued in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Delta Marsh Research Station (University of Manitoba). Graduates student programs addressing the decline in muskrat numbers in the marsh have been completed. It is hoped that the results will support improved management strategies to better improve the productivity of the wetlands for a variety of wildlife. The graduate students are currently writing their thesis and the resulting conclusions from this phase of the work will be completed soon.

Improvements to public viewing facilities are ongoing at Oak Hammock Marsh. The North Mound area and a new site in the southeast corner of the marsh at Oak Hammock were developed in cooperation with the Watchable Wildlife Program. This infrastructure was augmented with the construction of public viewing blinds that allow public viewing opportunity without disturbing the wildlife.

The range of purple loosestrife, an introduced wetland species, continues to expand, threatening important marsh ecosystems. The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project team is chaired by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and includes Ducks Unlimited Canada and the City of Winnipeg. Objectives are to control purple loosestrife through research, management, and expansion of biological control programs.

Park Facilities

Parks and Natural Areas branch endeavours to extend the life and capacity of provincial park infrastructure and enhance recreational opportunities through upgrading, improvement and development of park facilities. Environmental protection in provincial parks is enhanced through the installation and construction of appropriate facilities for the treatment of water and sewage, and the disposal of garbage. Campgrounds and other park areas are enhanced to meet park users' needs and promote attraction to users. Park facilities are upgraded through this program in conjunction with Part B Capital Assets and the camping budgets.

Camping Initiatives

The Provincial Camping Initiative is funded through the Department's Minor Capital Budget and is targeted at the development and upgrade of 1,000 camping sites. The intent of this program is to plan and upgrade existing campgrounds and associated facilities.

Expansions and upgrades have included new campsites, campsite enlargement and electrification, road upgrades, cabin and yurt enhancements, and campground office improvements.

Table IM.1
12.6 Minor Capital Projects

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	2,497		2,509	(5)	
Total 12.6	**2,497**		**2,509**	**(5)**	

Costs Related to Capital Assets

The Department expended the annual amortization costs of all completed assets based on the useful life of each asset. Assets purchased or constructed in 2009/10 were expended at one-half the annual amortization rate. The amortization expense also included the portion of corporate information technology projects attributable to the Department.

Table ACA.1

12.7 Costs Related to Capital Assets

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2009/10 $(000)	Estimate 2009/10 FTE	Estimate 2009/10 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
(a) Desktop Services - Enterprise Software Licences	240		219	21	
(b) General Assets					
(1) Amortization Expense	1,356		1,341	15	
(2) Interest Expense	431		430	1	
(c) Infrastructure Assets					
(1) Amortization Expense	2,315		2,715	(400)	1.
(2) Interest Expense	2,625		2,755	(130)	1.
Total 12.8	**6,967**		**7,460**	**(493)**	

1. Lower infrastructure amortization and interest expense is due to project deferrals as a result of weather, adjustments to project scope, and reprioritization of projects.

   The in-year cost of acquiring capital assets or assets under construction is provided through Part B - Capital Investment for which amortization and interest expense is reflected as a departmental operating expense. Part B - Capital Investment is highlighted in the following section.

PART B – CAPITAL INVESTMENT

General Assets

General Assets provides for the refurbishment and upgrade of facilities and the acquisition of machinery and equipment.

Machinery and equipment purchases included three Gator vehicles, three all terrain vehicles, nine industrial mowers, four snowmobiles, seven boat/motor and trailer combination units, one digital camera, three tractors, and one industrial trailer

Infrastructure Assets

Infrastructure provides for the refurbishment and upgrade of facilities and the acquisition of machinery and equipment, which are utilized by the general public in their enjoyment of Manitoba's outdoors.

Key Results Achieved

- The design of facilities and interpretative features at the new Duff Roblin Provincial Park continued. Construction of the preliminary earthwork was completed in 2009 with site stabilization and naturalization continuing.
- Construction was initiated on washroom/shower buildings at Birds Hill Campground in Birds Hill Provincial Park, Wellman Lake and Childs Lake Campground in Duck Mountain Provincial Park, and Nutimik Lake Campground in Whiteshell Provincial Park.
- Landscape and site improvements associated with the Birds Hill Washroom/Shower Building, including improved pathway connections, were designed and tendered for construction.
- Design and construction of a 32 stall washroom building at Grand Beach was started. The new washroom features a reinforced rammed earth wall, the first of its kind in Manitoba.
- Design work was initiated on the Otter Falls and Nutimik Lake campground enhancements and will include shoreline stabilization to retain threatened campsites, interpretation and landscape improvements.
- Design and construction of upgrading work was undertaken at the Birds Hill Riding Stables in order to improve manure management. Site work associated with the stables continued.
- Upgrade to the Grindstone Lagoon and road was initiated. Site work associated with the lagoon continued.
- The Force Main and Lift Station at West Hawk Lake was upgraded.
- Design and construction of water treatment plant at Paint Lake completed. Site work associated with the plant continued.

Camping Initiatives

As part of the Provincial Camping Initiative, improvements and infrastructure upgrades were made to various campgrounds throughout the Province.

Key Results Achieved

- At Duck Mountain Provincial Park, design and construction work proceeded on a 65 site expansion of Wellman Lake Campground.
- Construction was initiated on the development of a new fully-serviced 110 site campground at Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park. This development will include three washroom/shower buildings and a new campground office.

Six new Yurts were constructed at each of Camp Morton and Stephenfield Provincial Parks.

Sustainable Development Integration

Under *The Sustainable Development Act*, each department is required to integrate into its annual reporting process information about progress made in incorporating sustainable development into its activities. The section below provides just a few examples of the many activities the Department has undertaken to incorporate or apply the Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development into its everyday operations and activities. Please note that a particular example may exemplify more than one principle and/or guideline.

Principles of Sustainable Development

1. Integration of Environmental, Social, Health and Economic Decisions

To meet the intent of Principle # 1, the Department ensures:
a) its economic decisions and activities adequately reflect environmental, human health and social effects; and
b) its environmental and health decisions, activities and initiatives adequately take into account economic, human health and social consequences.

Examples:

- Parks and Natural Areas Branch is responsible for managing Provincial Parks, Ecological Reserves and Canadian Heritage Rivers, for the long-term benefit of Manitobans and the environment. These lands protect unique, representative or outstanding natural, cultural, and heritage features and resources, conserve ecosystems, and provide recreational and educational opportunities to approximately 5 million visitors each year.

- The Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch administers the environmental assessment process under the *Manitoba Environment Act.* The Branch is responsible for ensuring that potential adverse environmental and public health effects of new and existing developments are regulated through appropriate licence and permit conditions.

- Working with local governments, non-government organizations, business and industry associations and other agencies, the Pollution Prevention Branch promotes initiatives to foster efficient use of resources and best practices that avoids or minimizes pollution and waste. The Branch develops policy, strategies, legislation and regulations, and programs to reduce waste, prevent pollution and protect the stratospheric ozone layer.

2. Stewardship

To meet the intent of Principle # 2, the Department ensures:
a) its plans, policies and decisions ensure the economy, the environment, human health and social well being are managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations; and
b) its decisions are balanced with tomorrow's effects.

Examples:

- The Special Operating Agency, Green Manitoba, promotes sustainability practices by bringing together all the necessary partners (governments, business and other stakeholder organizations) to deliver programs and services related to increasing energy efficiency, conserving water, reducing waste, reducing green house gas (GHG) emissions, encouraging sustainable transportation practices and Education for Sustainability.

- Pollution Prevention Branch continued to work with Green Manitoba to finalize and implement new regulatory requirements under *The WRAP Act* to address priority waste streams as identified in Manitoba's Green and Growing Strategy. The *Household Hazardous Material and Prescribed Material Stewardship Regulation and the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulation* were passed in February 2010. The new Regulations are based on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and make the "stewards" of packaging and printed paper responsible for organizing and supporting a program to recycle those materials.
- Regulated programs under *The WRAP Act* recycled 98,788 tonnes of material in 2009/2010, including 14,373 tonnes of rubber from scrap tires, 71,006 tonnes of packaging and paper through municipal recycling programs and 14,078 tonnes of used oil products. The amount of material collected through these programs increased by 1,942 tonnes from the previous year.

3. Shared Responsibility and Understanding

To meet the intent of Principle # 3, the Department ensures:

a) it takes responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being and be accountable for its decisions and actions in a spirit of partnership and open co-operation with all Manitobans;

b) its decisions and activities reflect Manitoba's shared common economic, physical and social environment;

c) it understands and respects differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations in its decision making and activities; and

d) it considers and reflects in its decisions and activities the aspirations, needs and views of the people of the various geographical and ethnic groups in Manitoba, including aboriginal peoples to facilitate equitable management of Manitoba's common resources.

Examples:

- Aboriginal Relations Branch advocates that appropriate and meaningful Crown Consultation is undertaken with First Nation and Aboriginal communities when government decisions may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a Treaty or Aboriginal right. The Branch met with Aboriginal communities to identify concerns and assisted in developing action plans to resolve community issues.

- The Aboriginal Relations Branch created and fostered partnerships with Aboriginal leaders and communities that will build positive relationships in relations to program development, advocacy and capacity building. The Branch provided direction for the Department and Aboriginal communities in natural resource management programs and issues.

- The Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Planning Initiative on the east side of Lake Winnipeg involves the participation of the Province of Manitoba and First Nation communities of Berens River, Black River, Bloodvein, Bunibonibee, Garden Hill, God's Lake, Hollow Water, Little Grand Rapids, Manto Sipi, Pauingassi, Poplar River, Red Sucker Lake, St Theresa Point and Wasagamack.

- Regional staff participated on an inter-departmental team headed by Aboriginal and Northern Affairs that is meeting with representatives of the Manitoba Denesuline (Sayisi Dene and Northlands Dene First Nations), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Kivalliq Inuit Association and Canada on the Inuit's land and wildlife harvesting claims in northern Manitoba.

- Manitoba Conservation staff chair the Manitoba Game Bird Partnership, which consists of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, and Manitoba Lodges and Outfitter Association. The partnership was instrumental developing proposals to amend the *Migratory Birds Regulations*.

- Problem Predator Removal Services Program was provided to Manitoba agriculture producers and other property owners through an agreement with the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). The program provided for a licensed trapper to action a predator claim (primarily coyotes and wolves) by a producer through Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation (MASC).

- The Department continued to chair the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Committee in 2009/10. Other agencies actively involved in the preserve include the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, the Manitoba Naturalists Society, Environment Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The committee directs ongoing monitoring and management activities for the properties belonging to Preserve partners or under conservation agreement.

- The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) promotes economic development through the forest industry. During the reporting year, the SFU's role in Crown consultation continued to expand as the SFU provided support and advice to regional staff and other departments. The SFU promotes a sustainable development approach to Manitoba's forests, with a priority focus on economic diversification, Aboriginal participation and co-ordination between departments.

4. Prevention

To meet the intent of Principle # 4, the Department ensures:

a) its activities and decisions and legislation anticipate, and prevent or mitigate, significant adverse economic, environmental, human health and social effects, and

b) have particular careful regard to its decisions and actions whose impacts are not entirely certain but which, on reasonable and well-informed grounds, appear to pose serious threats to the economy, the environment, human health and social well being.

Examples:

- Adverse effects to the environment and public health from pesticide use were minimized through appropriate permit specifications, limits, terms and conditions. Liaison with the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency ensured that only approved products were permitted and used in Manitoba. The branch continued a review of government policy in the use of cosmetic pesticides which began during the 2008/09 fiscal year.

- Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Parks Canada Agency (PCA), and Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the main program partners, prepare an annual Implementation Plan for Bovine TB Management in Manitoba, detailing surveillance, scientific studies to understand disease dynamics, disease containment, and eradication. These agencies form the Bovine TB Task Group.

- Over 500 land-use proposals were reviewed to assess impacts to wildlife habitat. These included applications for general permits and leases, sales, and exchanges of Crown land, Treaty Land Entitlement and municipal development plans and zoning by-laws and amendments. Policy proposals were reviewed to evaluate impacts on wildlife, habitat, land management, and use.

- Manitoba Conservation staff assisted in forming the Manitoba Biodiversity Network Working Group - a coalition of organizations, including local governments and individuals dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity for sustainable and healthy ecosystems, economies, and societies.

- Staff from Manitoba Conservation participates on the "Manitoba Wildlife Collision Stakeholders Committee" that includes representatives from Manitoba Public Insurance, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities. As some wildlife population numbers increase, the number of collisions is also expected to increase. The role of the committee is to facilitate discussions and identify and develop solutions that, if implemented, would reduce the number of collisions.

- The Emergency Response Team assisted Police forces in Manitoba with identification, removal, and disposal of chemicals found in clandestine drug operations / marijuana grow operations, and helped evaluate the extent of contamination at the site for remediation purposes. The Emergency Response

Team is also an active participant in Manitoba's capability to respond to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) threats.

5. Conservation and Enhancement

To meet the intent of Principle # 5, the Department ensures:

a) its activities and decisions maintain the ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment;
b) that renewable natural resources are harvested on a sustainable yield basis;
c) that those persons who have been allocated provincial resources make wise and efficient use of them; and
d) its programs and activities enhance the long-term productive capability, quality and capacity of natural ecosystems.

Examples:

- The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) contributes to long-term sustainable development by assembling a network of core protected areas designed to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba. Protected areas consist of land, freshwater, or marine areas that are free from oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric development, logging, mining, and other activities that may significantly and adversely affect habitat. The goal of the PAI is to establish, for each of the 18 natural regions and sub-regions of the province, a network of protected areas containing an adequate and representative sample of the region's diverse landscapes.

- New protected areas were established in southern Manitoba (agro-Manitoba), in the Manitoba Lowlands in southeast Manitoba (Natural Region 5c), and in the Hudson Bay Lowlands (Natural Regions 2b and 3).

- The Chitek Lake and Poplar/Nanowin Rivers Park Reserves were renewed until September 2014. Work continued in other priority areas, including the Saskatchewan River Delta (Natural Region 5a), the Arctic Tundra (Natural Region 2a), the Northern Transition Forest (Natural Regions 1a and 1b).

- The Protected Areas Initiative also identified Manitoba's marine protected areas for the national Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System, which reports to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

- Parks and Natural Areas Branch was involved in the implementation of the Hayes River Canadian Heritage River System plan. A GIS inventory mapping project was initiated to map natural and cultural features and recreational sites and features along the river.

- On June 11, 2009, amendments to *The Forest Act* received Royal Assent by the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. Major amendments made to the Act include changes to improve the department's ability to track timber harvesting and movement, increased enforcement abilities, stronger penalties and restrictions on commercial logging in all provincial parks, except Duck Mountain.

- Regeneration surveys to determine the success of forest renewal were performed on 6,604.94 hectares. The Forestry Branch surveyed 2,455.14 hectares. Licensed regeneration surveyors from the Mountain Forest Section Renewal Company surveyed 675.6 hectares, Tembec surveyed 1,964.06 hectares and Louisiana Pacific surveyed 1,510.14 hectares. Free to Grow surveys were performed on a total of 4,542.65 hectares of softwood-dominated forest stands to determine if they are developing appropriately (i.e. surpassing competing tree species in height within 14-20 years of age).

- Lands comprised of native grassland, wetland and woodland habitat have an important role in maintaining biodiversity as well as providing habitat for rare, threatened or endangered flora and fauna. In Manitoba these habitats are continually being lost to development. Impact to these habitats and associated wildlife should be avoided where possible. When avoidance is not possible, an environmental protection/development plan needs to be developed providing information on vegetation and wildlife, landform and drainage, soil characteristics and rare, threatened or endangered species as well as proposed timing of development and reclamation or re-vegetation actions.

- The Wildlife Lands Unit delivers the Heritage Marsh Program, an initiative to celebrate and better manage Manitoba's large wetland complexes. This includes land acquisition, habitat restoration, enhancement, vegetation and wildlife surveys, support for research, and the development of wildlife viewing and interpretation facilities.

6. Rehabilitation and Reclamation

To meet the intent of Principle # 6, the Department ensures:
a) it actively endeavours to repair or have repaired damage to, or degradation of, the environment; and
b) that the Department builds into its future allocations of and plans for the use of resources the requirement to rehabilitate and reclaim areas and resources that may be damaged.

Examples:

- Staff responded to approximately 20 manure reportable and not-reportable spills. Producers are required to contact Manitoba Conservation when reportable manure spills occur. Reportable spills include spills that: exceed 10,000 litres; occur during transport; involve manure escaping the boundary of the agricultural operation; or result in manure entering a surface water feature or groundwater.

- The *Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation* was amended to ensure increased protection of human health and the environment.

- The Air Quality Management Unit provided technical and policy support to a number of Departmental activities, including: Providing input into the federal regulatory framework on air emissions (Clean Air Regulatory Agenda) and the national comprehensive air management system; Management of releases from base metal smelters in Manitoba to protect local air quality; On-going scientific and related monitoring activities to assess eco-system vulnerability to acidic deposition.

- The Department undertook program development and successful delivery of the second phase of soil improvements at selected parks and playgrounds in Flin Flon, as a precautionary measure to protect young children using the parks from potential exposure to metals in soils as well as for the continued greening of the community.

- Environmental Operations successfully administered the remediation of the former IKO roofing site in St. Boniface.

7. Global Responsibility

To meet the intent of Principle # 7, the Department ensures:
a) it thinks globally when acting locally, recognizing there is economic, ecological and social interdependence among provinces and nation; and
b) it works co-operatively, within Canada and internationally, to integrate economic, environmental, human health and social factors in decision making while developing comprehensive and equitable solutions to problems.

Examples:

- The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a member of NatureServe International (www.natureserve.org), a network of 82 similar centres monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere, and also a member of NatureServe Canada, an organization to which CDCs from all Canadian provinces and one territory belong. The CDC completes an annual exchange of data integrating Manitoba's data with the entire network. Information from the Canadian CDC databases is recognized by Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada as being a key component of their efforts to monitor and conserve species at risk.

- Staff continued to participate on the Federal-Provincial Working Group (FPWG) on Ozone Depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives and met to consult on provincial and federal harmonization approaches for the continued implementation of the 2001 National *Action Plan (NAP) for the Environmental Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and Their Halocarbon Alternatives.* The NAP was created to meet national and international commitments under the Montreal Protocol.

- The Branch represented the department in trade matters related to the Agreement on Internal Trade, including representing the department in development and implementation of the Environment chapter and Processing of Natural Resources chapter, NAFTA and GATT/WTO agreements, coordinating activities associated with implementation of NAFTA, monitoring trade developments in environment and natural resource issues, and liaising with other departments and jurisdictions on trade matters involving environment and natural resources.

Sustainable Development Guidelines

1. Efficient Uses of Resources

To meet the intent of Guidelines # 1, the Department ensures:
a) encourage and facilitate development and application and use of systems for proper resource pricing, demand management and resource allocation together with incentives to encourage efficient use of resources; and
b) employ full-cost accounting to provide better information for decision-makers.

Examples:

- Analyses were undertaken to obtain and improve estimates of forest carbon across the province and to integrate carbon reporting with the provincial wood supply determination process. Information was compiled for a case study area (portion of the Lake Winnipeg East forest section) and prepared for use with the Carbon Budget Model (CBM) developed by the Canadian Forest Service.

- An assessment of carbon storage within peatland ecosystems across the province began with collaboration and assistance from the Canadian Forest Service. The analysis will provide standardized baseline information regarding Manitoba peatland ecosystems for consideration in climate change research and management planning.

- The IT Branch continued its support and development enhancements to several business applications including custom web site development for the cottage lot draw program, Water Licensing application, the Environment Management System, the Vendor Accounting System, the Headquarters Enforcement System, the Big Game Management System, the License Advisory Committee System, the Canada Map Sales web site, and the water well drilling management application.

- Ten Community Traditional Area Land Use Plan (TALUP) Coordinators were trained to document and map First Nation traditional knowledge (TK) at the community level, through interviews with elders, trappers and other community land users. As well, a Traditional Area Land Use Planning Workshop was held for Community TALUP Coordinators at which Coordinators were provided with laptop computers to store information and prepare reports and presentations, global positioning system (GPS) units to accurately locate features on the landscape, and audio and video recorders to document interviews.

- In 2009/10, 2,491 air photo products were produced and sold to the general public and government agencies. The Air Photo Library houses the only historic pictures of Manitoba's landscape dating back to the 1920s and holds approximately 1,000,000 such photos. These photos are purchased by resource planners, environmental agencies, land developers and mining companies.

2. Public Participation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 2, the Department ensures:

a) use and establish forums which encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in departmental decision making processes by Manitobans;
b) provide due process, prior notification and appropriate and timely redress for those adversely affected by departmental decisions and actions; and
c) strive to achieve consensus amongst citizens and the Department with regard to decisions affecting them.

Examples:

- Pollution Prevention Branch worked with Green Manitoba to finalize and implement new regulatory requirements under *The WRAP Act*. The *Household Hazardous Material and Prescribed Material Stewardship Regulation and the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Stewardship Regulation* were passed in February 2010. The new Regulations are based on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and make the "stewards" of packaging and printed paper responsible for organizing and supporting a program to recycle those materials. The branch hosted an information session with industry stakeholders in March.

- The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development met three times during the year, as required under *The Sustainable Development Act*. The Round Table awarded Sustainable Development Scholarships to two students in Manitoba and also awarded the 2009 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards. Among the winners was Bison Transport Inc which received the Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability Award for their creative approaches to improving fuel efficiency and reducing the environmental impacts of freight transport.

3. Access to Information

To meet the intent of Guideline # 3, the Department ensures:

a) improve and refine economic, environmental, human health and social information related to natural resources and the environment; and
b) provide and promote the opportunity for equal and timely access to its information by all Manitobans.

Examples:

- The Conservation and Environment Library supports access to print and electronic specialized information resources for Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Environment Canada in Winnipeg, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and the public. Current information related to the mandates of each partner organization is made available to staff and to the public. In the 2009/10 the library responded to over 4,000 requests for information both from staff and the public, and over 782 items were added to the physical collection.

- The Public Information section provided information to the public regarding the numerous programs delivered by the Departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. This service was provided in person, by telephone, Internet and mail, including the following responses to requests for information and assistance in 2009/10:
  - 35,444 direct telephone requests to the Information Officers;
  - 33,332 calls were received by the automated Public Information Line, of which 10,698 were handled directly by the line;
  - 72,416 in person requests;
  - 1,095 requests through the Internet; and
  - 4,968 information packages were mailed.

- Green Manitoba developed the Manitoba Eco-Calendar with environmental agency partners and distributed copies across Manitoba. The calendar promotes sustainability and green practices for Manitobans; 90,000 calendars were produced and distributed throughout Manitoba, with one-third of the calendars distributed to rural and northern regions.

- The Manitoba Parks Interpretation program offers visitors a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources in provincial parks. Live field programs complemented by publications, outdoor exhibits, and audio-visual materials bring visitors in direct contact with park resources and management. Programs were presented at Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Hecla/Grindstone, Lockport, Paint Lake, River Road, St. Malo, St. Norbert, Spruce Woods, Turtle Mountain and Whiteshell Provincial Parks. Interpreters contacted about 90,000 visitors at interpreter-led events and in interpretive centres and museums.

4. Integrated Decision Making and Planning

To meet the intent of Guideline # 4, the Department ensures:
a) encourage, facilitate, establish and ensure its decision making and planning processes are efficient, timely, accountable and cross-sectoral; and
b) incorporate into its decision making and planning an inter-generational perspective of future needs and consequences.

Examples:

- The Climate Change Branch coordinated Manitoba's participation and involvement in the Prairies Region Adaptation Collaborative (PRAC). This is a joint initiative between the Federal Government, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and is intended to "mainstream" adaptation decision making into government policy.

- Corporate Crown Land Policy participated in several inter-departmental committees and working groups to represent Government Crown land policy interests. Guidance and advice were provided to various departments regarding inter-relationships, authorities, policies and administrative matters concerning Crown lands and coordinated efforts in acquiring land in support of the new Upper Fort Garry Provincial Heritage Park.

- Advice and support were provided to the Protected Areas Initiative and related activities, including discussions and development of draft agreements with Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives with respect to agriculturally coded Crown lands, and with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada regarding Crown lands in community pastures.

- Parks and Natural Areas Branch participates in The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS), which is Canada's national river conservation program. The program promotes, protects and enhances Canada's river heritage, and ensures that Canada's leading rivers are managed in a sustainable manner. Rivers in the CHRS possess outstanding natural and/or cultural values, offer quality recreational opportunities, and showcase the benefits of healthy river environments, now and in the future.

- The Department provides support for the Winnipeg based International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). The Institute promotes the concept of environmentally sustainable economic development and the integration of the principles and practices of sustainable development within and between the public, private and voluntary sectors on a national and international basis.

- The Trees for Tomorrow program involves the public and all levels of government in a co-ordinated program of public and private tree planting throughout Manitoba. School groups, municipal and First Nations governments and large and small scale landowners will be involved. Manitoba Conservation and its delivery partner, the Manitoba Forestry Association, will deliver much of the planting effort.

5. Waste Minimization and Substitution

To meet the intent of Guideline # 5, the Department ensures:

a) encourage and promote, within and outside of the Department, the development and use of substitutes for scarce resources where such substitutes are both environmentally sound and economically viable; and

b) reduce, reuse, recycle and recover the products the Department uses in its daily operations and encourage, promote and facilitate the 4 R's in society generally.

Examples:

- The Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corp. (MARRC) is a non-profit corporation established by manufacturers and marketers of lubricating products in Manitoba to operate a province-wide stewardship program for used oil, used oil filters and used oil containers. MARRC operates under the authority of the *Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation* and a letter of approval from the Minister of Conservation. Oil recovery remained steady at 12.5 Million Liters or 70% of the estimated amount recoverable.

- Pollution Prevention Branch staff continued to work on the implementation of 2005 regulatory amendments to encourage the orderly transition from CFCs and Halons to alternative substances and technologies. Staff met with the Manitoba Halon Working Group to assist industry and business owners with the Halon use phase-out and transition to alternative substances.

- Forestry staff initiated a biomass utilization / measurement trial with Riehl Lumber and Logging in the Durban Area. This trial involves utilization of hardwood logging waste (mill residue, undersized tops, crooks, sweeps, shattered and short pieces) which is often left in bush following harvest. Reihl Lumber is marketing this biomass as hog fuel and color landscape mulch.

- Green Manitoba (GM) administered the implementation of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) Levy program, a new levy on waste disposed in Manitoba landfills beginning July 2009. GM developed and distributed the WRARS Program Guide to Manitoba municipalities and landfill operators and commenced landfill and municipal recycling registration processes.

6. Research and Innovation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 6, the Department ensures:

a) encourage and assist in the research, development, application and sharing of knowledge and technologies which further economic, environmental, human health and social well-being.

Examples:

- Section staff reviewed and recommended for approval 10 requests for scientific research permits or amendments to existing permits bringing the total number of new and ongoing research projects on non-game wildlife in the province to 21. Researchers from within and outside of Manitoba investigated the biology and ecology of species ranging from endangered butterflies to frogs, snakes, small mammals, raptors and polar bears.

- Supplementary wood supply analyses were carried out for portions of the Lake Winnipeg East Forest Section to reflect the removal of forest management activities (harvesting) from the Nopiming and Whiteshell Provincial Parks. Wood supply figures for the Pineland Forest Section were also updated to reflect recent natural disturbances events (fire and wind throw), land ownership changes and new Protected Areas Initiative land selections.

- The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre is producing a land-cover map of the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site on the east side of Manitoba and into a portion of North Western Ontario. This project is using Landsat 5/7 satellite imagery circa 2000. And as part of the Kyoto Protocol, Pacific Forest

Service and MRCS agreed to evaluate the deforestation that has taken place between 1990 and 2008 using Landsat 5/7 and ancillary data.

- Forintek Canada Corp., a division of FPInnovations, is a not-for-profit wood products research organization. In 2009-10, Forintek continued to provide industry expertise through workshops, plant visits and technical inquiries. This program was funded through 2010, under a federal-provincial agreement. Forintek continued to have two secondary forest products industry advisors based in Winnipeg. The continued focus of the program is to assist in industry diversification and competitiveness.

- Staff worked with the Fur Institute of Canada's Trap Research and Development Committee on humane trapping devices and manufacturing standards. The Koro Rodent trap for weasel, manufactured by Koro Traps of Ste. Anne, became the fourth Manitoba trap certified as meeting the Canada-Russia-European Union Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. All certified devices are annually listed in the Manitoba Trapping Guide.

- Through its Boreal Woodland Caribou Program Manitoba Conservation continues to be committed to woodland caribou conservation. Research and monitoring has focused on the Owl-Flintstone range. Projects include monitoring of calf recruitment/adult survival rates, calving/nursery habitat modeling, monitoring of effects on caribou habitat use and movements of an experimental forest harvest.

- Fieldwork to locate provincially rare plants and invertebrates is key to the assessment of candidate species at risk, and to the management and recovery of species at risk. In 2009/10, fieldwork was conducted at 94 sites by staff of the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC), and additional reports of rare species were provided by a number of partners and interested individuals.

Sustainable Development Procurement Goals

1. Education, Training, and Awareness

To meet the intent of Goal #1, the department ensures a culture that supports sustainable procurement practices exists within their department by:

a) increasing awareness about the benefits of Sustainable Development Procurement among departments, employees and vendors; and
b) expanding the knowledge and skills of procurement practitioners and end users.

Examples:

- Supported the development of a "green procurement" website designed for the use of Manitoba public sector organizations. The website, "Manitoba Going Green – Encouraging Green and Sustainable Procurement within the Manitoba Public Sector", has been developed to provide information to public sector purchasers to support and encourage green procurement. The information available on the website is a compilation of green procurement and sustainable development initiatives currently promoted by procurement professionals working for such areas as government, crown corporations, hospitals and municipalities.

2. Pollution Prevention and Human Health Protection

To meet the intent of Goal #2, the department needs to protect the health and environment of Manitobans from possible adverse effects of their operations and activities, and provide a safe and healthy working environment by:

a) reducing their purchase and use of toxic substances; and
b) reducing solid waste sent to landfill from Government of Manitoba owned or leased facilities occupied by the department.

Examples:

- As part of a modernization and enhancement of public service, the removal of underground petroleum storage tanks at Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park and Hecla Provincial Park was completed and modern environmentally approved above ground tanks and pumps were installed as per The Environment Act requirements.

3. Reduction of Fossil Fuel Emissions

To meet the intent of Goal #3, a department needs to reduce fossil fuel emissions of their operations and activities by:

a) reducing both consumption and emissions of vehicle fuels; and
b) as a substitute for regular fuels, increase their use of ethanol-blended fuels and alternative energy sources.

Examples:

- Used hybrid vehicles when appropriate for Departmental purposes and as a commitment to demonstrate leadership.

- Continued to encourage use of ethanol fuel when available and appropriate to vehicle.

4. Resource Conservation

To meet the intent of Goal #4, a department needs to reduce their use and consumption of resources in a sustainable and environmentally preferable manner by:

a) reduce the total annual consumption of utilities including natural gas, electricity, propane, fuel oil and water in all leased or owned Government of Manitoba buildings and premises occupied by the department; and
b) within the context of reduced resource use, increase the proportion of environmentally preferable products and environmentally preferable services used by the department.

Examples:

- Continued to conduct audits on Conservation owned buildings to develop realistic minimum requirements to undertake retrofits. Standard clauses for sustainable development procurement on all purchase requisitions are reflected in the Department's Contract Manual.

- Extended the life and capacity of provincial park infrastructure and enhanced recreational opportunities through upgrading, improving and developing park facilities. Environmental protection in provincial parks was enhanced through the installation and construction of appropriate facilities for the treatment of water and sewage, and the disposal of garbage.

- A new shower building incorporating green technology was constructed at Nutimik Lake Campground in the Whiteshell and a major initiative was started during the winter of 2010 to introduce green technology water saving devices in all campgrounds in the North Whiteshell.

- Construction was initiated on the development of a new fully-serviced 110 site campground at Winnipeg Beach Provincial Park. The campground was designed with energy conservation measures in mind and includes solar heating for hot water, low-flush fixtures and coin-operated showers.

5. Community Economic Development

To meet the intent of Goal #5, a department would ensure that their procurement practices foster and sustain community economic development by:

a) increasing the participation of Aboriginal peoples and suppliers in providing for the department's goods and services needs;

b) assisting in the development and growth of local environmental industries and markets for environmentally preferable products and services; and
c) increasing the participation of small businesses, community based businesses and Co-ops in the department's procurement opportunities.

Examples:

- Staff represented the department on the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative Management Committee. The initiative brings together several departments including Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Health, and Conservation and is intended to promote healthy food choices and support the development of local food sources in northern Manitoba.

- Continued efforts toward enhancing Aboriginal and local procurement in support of community based economic development within the context of government's public tendering policies.

- Continued offering the Cottage Lot Initiative which makes cottage lots available to Manitobans. New development enhances the quality of life for Manitobans by providing opportunities to enjoy Manitoba's natural beauty and provides economic benefits to communities and municipalities.

- The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) promotes economic development through the forest industry. The SFU promotes a sustainable development approach to Manitoba's forests, with a priority focus on economic diversification, Aboriginal participation and co-ordination between departments. The Unit is working to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fiber usage and environmentally responsible forest management practices.

Revenue and Expenditure Summaries

Table RE.1
Reconciliation Statement

$(000s)

DETAILS	2009-10 ESTIMATES
2009-10 MAIN ESTIMATES	$127,970
MAIN ESTIMATES AUTHORITY TRANSFERRED FROM:	
- Innovation, Energy, and Mines	4,081
- Enabling Appropriations	
• Canada-Manitoba Enabling Vote	2,963
• Internal Reform, Workforce Adjustment and General Salary Increase	390
2009-10 ESTIMATES	$135,404

Table RE.2

Revenue Summary by Source

For the year ended March 31, 2010 with comparative figures for the previous year

Actual		Increase		Actual	Estimate	Variance	Expl.
2008-09	**2009-10**	**(Decrease)**	**Approp.Source**	**2009-10**	**2009-10**		**No.**
			OTHER REVENUE:				
0	0	0	(a) Clean Environment Commission Cost Recovery	0	0	0	
646	2,628	1,982	(b) Cottaging Initiative	2,628	3,837	(1,209)	1.
598	371	(226)	(c) Environment Fees and Sundry	371	374	(3)	
4,939	3,941	(998)	(d) Forestry Fees and Sundry	3,941	4,850	(909)	2.
1,756	1,502	(254)	(e) Land Information Sales and Fees	1,502	1,843	(341)	3.
3,799	3,780	(19)	(f) Licence Sales by Vendors	3,780	4,145	(365)	
11,708	10,278	(1,430)	(g) Parks Fees	10,278	9,050	1,228	4.
5,428	10,833	5,404	(h) Regional Operations Fees and Cost Recovery	10,833	8,886	1,947	5.
494	376	(118)	(i) Wildlife Sundry	376	664	(288)	6.
286	371	85	(j) Sundry	371	324	47	
29,654	**34,080**	**4,426**	**Subtotal**	**34,080**	**33,973**	**107**	
			GOVERNMENT OF CANADA:				
151	151	0	(a) Migratory Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Agreement	151	151	0	
178	64	(114)	(b) Softwood Lumber Agreement	64	445	(381)	7.
50	73	23	(c) Ash Inventory and Emerald Ash Borer Risk Assessment	73	80	(7)	
	227	227	(d) Other	227	0	227	8.
379	**515**	**136**	**Subtotal**	**515**	**676**	**(161)**	
30,033	**34,595**	**4,562**	**Total**	**34,595**	**34,649**	**(54)**	
0	0	0	Sale of Government Assets	0	0	0	

Explanation Number:

1. Lower Cottaging Initiative revenue was due to deferral of revenue, as fewer lots were completed to lock up stage.
2. Lower Forestry revenue was due to lower harvesting as a result of poor market conditions.
3. Lower Land Information Sales and Fee revenue was due to lower Crown Land sales as a result of delays in finalization of the review of sale applications.
4. Increase in Parks Fees was due to favorable camping weather in September and increased cottage lot initiative revenue recognition as more cottages were completed to lock up stage.
5. Increase in Regional Operations Fees and Cost Recovery was due to fire suppression cost recovery for out of province fire fighting activity.
6. Lower Wildlife Sundry revenue was primarily due to fewer non resident hunting licenses sold.
7. Lower Softwood Lumber Agreement revenue was due to lower lumber prices, which resulted in reduced exports to the U.S., and therefore, less export taxes were collected.
8. Increase in Government of Canada Other revenue was due to the Prevention of Invasive Pests Contribution Agreement and Community Adjustment Fund (CAF) - Community Based Volume Sampling project funding, both approved in-year.

Table RE.3

Expenditure Summary

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2010 with comparative figures for the previous year.

Estimate 2009/10	Appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Actual 2008/09	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
	12-1 Administration and Finance				
46	(a) Minister's Salary	46	45	1	
	(b) Executive Support				
701	Salaries and Employee Benefits	875	686	189	
179	Other Expenditures	142	130	12	
	(c) Corporate Services				
962	Salaries and Employee Benefits	983	1,036	(53)	
1,431	Other Expenditures	1,493	1,405	88	
	(d) Financial Services				
1,614	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,458	1,406	52	
387	Other Expenditures	406	426	(20)	
	(e) Human Resource Services				
1,450	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,267	1,189	78	
185	Other Expenditures	151	163	(12)	
	(f) Information Technology Services				
1,582	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,298	1,335	(37)	
212	Other Expenditures	183	196	(13)	
	(g) Clean Environment Commission				
313	Salaries and Employee Benefits	353	323	30	
329	Other Expenditures	234	134	100	
	(h) Distribution Centre				
477	Salaries and Employee Benefits	504	597	(93)	
337	Other Expenditures	250	283	(33)	
(50)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	(31)	(17)	(14)	
211	(i) Seasonal Support	197	355	(158)	
10,366	**Total 12-1**	**9,809**	**9,692**	**117**	
	12-2 Regional Operations				
	(a) Regional Support Services				
2,587	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,878	2,775	103	
1,508	Other Expenditures	1,598	1,516	82	
243	Problem Wildlife Control	217	267	(50)	
	(b) Northwest Region				
2,381	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,211	2,212	(1)	
839	Other Expenditures	1,137	807	330	1.
	(c) Northeast Region				
2,766	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,855	2,761	94	
1,155	Other Expenditures	1,191	1,144	47	
	(d) Central Region				
4,366	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,976	4,129	(153)	
1,748	Other Expenditures	1,635	1,664	(29)	
	(e) Eastern Region				
4,134	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,152	4,027	125	
939	Other Expenditures	996	976	20	
	(f) Western Region				
4,285	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,139	4,286	(147)	
1,441	Other Expenditures	1,352	1,398	(46)	
	(g) Park Operations and Maintenance				
13,708	Salaries and Employee Benefits	13,874	14,421	(547)	

Estimate 2009/10	Appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Actual 2008/09	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
6,100	Other Expenditures	7,024	6,209	815	2.
(472)	Less: Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(472)	(472)	0	
	(h) Fire and Emergency Response Program				
6,726	Salaries and Employee Benefits	6,606	6,750	(144)	
10,424	Other Expenditures	10,387	10,004	383	
(500)	Less: Recoverable from Emergency Expenditures	(490)	(410)	(80)	
	(i) Environmental Operations				
	(1) Environmental Services				
2,245	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,916	1,315	601	3.
1,284	Other Expenditures	1,148	944	204	
	(2) Regional Services				
3,692	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,886	3,023	(137)	
910	Other Expenditures	662	671	(9)	
72,509	**Total 12-2**	**71,878**	**70,417**	**1,461**	
	12-3 Conservation Programs				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
179	Salaries and Employee Benefits	135	168	(33)	
392	Other Expenditures	281	368	(87)	
	(b) Wildlife Enhancement Initiative				
225	Other Expenditures	219	212	7	
	(c) Parks and Natural Areas				
1,867	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,044	1,654	390	4.
1,586	Other Expenditures	1,516	1,421	95	
561	Grant Assistance	561	520	41	
	(d) Forestry				
5,221	Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,225	5,162	63	
6,779	Other Expenditures	8,817	9,653	(836)	
23	Grant Assistance	23	23	0	
1,001	Forest Regeneration Stock	963	911	52	
(1,325)	Less: Recoverable from Urban and Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,160)	(1,102)	(58)	
60	(e) Habitat Enhancement Fund	60	60	0	
	(f) Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection				
2,334	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,399	2,299	100	
1,137	Other Expenditures	1,075	1,233	(158)	
1,036	Grant Assistance	1,035	995	40	
354	Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement	315	327	(12)	
125	(g) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund	111	193	(82)	
	(h) Lands and Geomatics				
1,584	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,649	1,588	61	
3,987	Other Expenditures	3,675	3,398	277	
(24)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	0	0	0	
	(i) Survey Services				
1,661	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,461	1,425	36	
443	Other Expenditures	398	431	(33)	
(1,571)	Less: Recoveries from other appropriations	(1,351)	(1,379)	28	
27,635	**Total 12-3**	**29,451**	**29,560**	**(109)**	

Estimate 2009/10	Appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Actual 2008/09	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
	12-4 Environmental Stewardship				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
231	Salaries and Employee Benefits	215	192	23	
64	Other Expenditures	37	33	4	
	(b) Sustainable Resource and Policy Management				
1,050	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,053	1,043	10	
236	Other Expenditures	187	160	27	
145	Grant Assistance	138	138	0	
	(c) Corporate Crown Land Policy				
270	Salaries and Employee Benefits	139	184	(45)	
28	Other Expenditures	12	12	0	
	(d) Environmental Assessment and Licensing				
1,477	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,370	1,479	(109)	
277	Other Expenditures	263	202	61	
	(e) Aboriginal Relations				
540	Salaries and Employee Benefits	480	482	(2)	
261	Other Expenditures	133	251	(118)	
1,075	(f) Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin	902	799	103	
	(g) Protected Areas				
426	Salaries and Employee Benefits	476	279	197	
365	Other Expenditures	330	46	284	
340	Grant Assistance	905	3,660	(2,755)	5.
	(h) Pollution Prevention				
339	Salaries and Employee Benefits	404	335	69	
593	Other Expenditures	598	95	503	6.
	(i) Air Quality Management				
303	Salaries and Employee Benefits	327	322	5	
67	Other Expenditures	60	63	(3)	
	(j) Climate Change Initiatives				
783	Salaries and Employee Benefits	733	704	29	
595	Other Expenditures	509	432	77	
14	Grant Assistance	14	14	0	
	(k) Green Manitoba Eco Solutions				
4,250	Other Expenditures	5,009	5,189	(180)	
13,729	**Total 12-4**	**14,294**	**16,114**	**(1,820)**	
1,196	12-5 International Institute for Sustainable Development	1,196	1,196	0	
1,196	**Total 12-5**	**1,196**	**1,196**	**0**	
2,509	12-6 Minor Capital Projects	2,504	3,336	(832)	
2,509	**Total 12-6**	**2,504**	**3,336**	**(832)**	
	12-7 Costs Related to Capital Assets				
219	(a) Desktop Services – Enterprise Software	240	219	21	
	(b) General Assets				
1,341	(1) Amortization Expense	1,356	1,300	56	
430	(2) Interest Expense	431	436	(5)	
	(c) Infrastructure Assets				
2,715	(1) Amortization Expense	2,315	2,135	180	
2,755	(2) Interest Expense	2,625	2,229	396	

Estimate 2009/10	Appropriation	Actual 2009/10	Actual 2008/09	Increase (Decrease)	Expl. No.
7,460	**Total 12-7**	**6,967**	**6,319**	**648**	
135,404	**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**	**136,099**	**136,634**	**(535)**	
	B.12 Capital Investment				
600	(a) General Assets	748	1,236	(488)	
	(b) Infrastructure Assets				
8,876	(1) Parks Infrastructure Projects	9,198	4,041	5,157	
5,381	(2) Camping Improvements	4,647	1,904	2,743	
2,500	(3) Cottage Lots Development	660	1,194	(534)	
17,357	**TOTAL B.12 CAPITAL INVESTMENT**	**15,253**	**8,375**	**6,878**	

Explanations:

1. The increase of $330 in 2009/10 operating expenditures was primarily due to provision for Grand Rapids survey costs.
2. The increase of $815 in 2009/10 operating expenditures was due to costs associated with grant assistance for implementation of a new integrated registration/trail pass system, and increased operating costs.
3. The increase of $601 in 2009/10 salaries and employee benefits was due to increased program activity in Environmental Services.
4. The increase of $390 in 2009/10 salaries and employee benefits was due to increased program activity in Parks Support Services, including planning and development of new and enhanced park services, facilities, and infrastructure.
5. The decrease of ($2,755) in 2009/10 grant assistance was due to 2008/09 grant to Nature Conservancy of Canada.
6. The increase of $503 in 2009/10 operating expenditures was due to Flin Flon Soil Project Phase II costs.

Table RE.4

Five Year Expenditure and Staffing Summary by Appropriation

For year ending March 31, 2006 – March 31, 2010*

	2005/2006		2006/2007		2007/2008		2008/2009		2009/2010	
	FTEs	**$(000)**	**FTEs**	**$(000)**	**FTEs**	**$(000)**	**FTEs**	**$(000)**	**FTEs**	**$(000)**
Administration and Finance	102.33	8,430	99.33	9,477	99.83	9,690	100.83	9,692	99.83	9,809
Regional Operations	660.57	59,019	688.57	63,752	700.47	65,187	703.47	70,417	714.47	71,878
Conservation Programs	181.35	21,618	167.35	23,299	166.89	24,697	186.27	29,560	170.27	29,451
Environmental Stewardship	66.00	7,454	63.00	7,848	67.00	9,335	68.00	16,114	69.00	14,294
International Institute for Sustainable Development		1,146		1,196		1,196		1,196		1,196
Minor Capital Projects		3,621		3,556		3,227		3,336		2,504
Costs Related to Capital Assets		5,441		5,974		6,564		6,319		6,967
Total Appropriations	**1,010.25**	**106,729**	**1,018.25**	**115,102**	**1,034.19**	**119,896**	**1,058.57**	**136,634**	**1,053.57**	**136,099**

*Adjusted figures reflect historical date on a comparable basis in those appropriations affected by re-organization, during the years under review.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING TABLE 2009/10

The following section provides information on key performance measures for the department for the 2009/2010 reporting year. This is the fifth year in which all Government of Manitoba departments have included a Performance Measurement section, in a standardized format, in their Annual Reports.

Performance indicators in departmental Annual Reports are intended to complement financial results and provide Manitobans with meaningful and useful information about government activities, and their impact on the province and its citizens.

For more information on performance reporting and the Manitoba government, visit www.manitoba.ca/performance.

Your comments on performance measures are valuable to us. You can send comments or questions to mbperformance@gov.mb.ca.

What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)	Why is it important to measure this? (B)	What is the starting point? (baseline data and year) (C)	What is the 09/10 result or most recent available data? (D)	What is the trend over time? (E)	Comments/recent actions/report links (F)
Percentage of provincial Crown land co-managed with First Nations.	The amount of co-managed land provides an indication of government's efforts to establish good relationships with First Nations.	The baseline year is 2000/01 - MOUs on co-management were signed.	42.3% co-managed or under negotiation to be co-managed (Note: Actual 09/10 percentage TBC).	Percentage of Crown land under co-management is increasing.	
The availability of high quality outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences for Manitobans; measured by: - Number of improved campsites made available (e.g., washrooms,	It is important to measure the expansion of available recreational campsites because the ability to enjoy outdoor recreation experiences is very important to Manitobans. Camping is a growing activity in Manitoba and it is	The baseline year is 2004/05 – 225 improved campsites were made available to Manitobans that year.	In 2009/10, construction began on 20 new Full Service sites at Rivers. Work began on modern shower washroom buildings at Childs Lake, Wellman Lake, Nutimik Lake and Birds Hill campgrounds for a total of 24 improvements within	From 2004/05 through 2009/10, a total of 779 camping improvements were implemented. Campsite occupancy has held fairly steady over the past six years, with an average of	The Province has made significant commitments with respect to increasing camping and cottaging opportunities for Manitobans. For further information on recreational

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showers). - Yearly occupation rates of all campsites.	important to know if the camping program is meeting the needs of Manitobans.		Manitoba Provincial Parks. In addition, two premium cabins at Hecla were completed as were the 6 Yurt installations at Camp Morton and another 6 at Stephenfield. The average campsite occupancy was 33.9% which is an increase of 1.2% over 2008/09.	33.2%, and high of 34.2% in 2007/2008 and a low of 31.4% in 2005/2006.	opportunities for Manitobans, please see the relevant section of the report.
Number of cottage lots made available to Manitobans.	Providing cottaging opportunities is important to government and Manitobans. Relative affordability of cottage properties is a major reason why Manitoba remains attractive as a place to live.	The baseline year is 2004/05 - 576 cottage lots were made available to Manitobans as part of the provincial commitment for 1,000 new cottage lots.	1376 lots made available, 831 sold or leased to date; 375 lots from previous existing inventory; 1001 were newly offered lots. Manitobans were provided the opportunity to purchase 319 Crown lots and lease 36 lots within Provincial Parks, unclaimed from previous draws through the First Come First Served Cottage Lot program.	An increasing number of cottage lots are being made available each year to meet the increasing demand. The government is currently working on our commitment of an additional 1000 cottage lots to be made available to Manitobans. Lots are offered through a public draw process in which only Manitobans can apply. New lots are	

What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)	Why is it important to measure this? (B)	What is the starting point? (base-line data and year) (C)	What is the 09/10 result or most recent available data? (D)	What is the trend over time? (E)	Comments/recent actions/report links (F)
				needed to satisfy the increasing demand for high quality lakefront lots.	
Reduction in environmental liabilities for which the Department is responsible.	Contaminated and impacted sites may be harmful to human health and/or the environment. They need to be tracked to ensure public safety and health and environmental protection.	The baseline year is 2005/06. Recorded value of environmental liabilities was $39 million as of March 31, 2006.	Recorded value of environmental liabilities for the Department was $103 million as of March 31, 2010.	Recorded value of environmental liabilities should decrease as sites are remediated, and environmental quality should increase as a result.	Initial identification and assessment phase is complete. Remediation of priority sites is ongoing.
Hectares of protected land in Manitoba.	Protected areas help ensure conservation of biodiversity, maintain natural cycles, provide pristine areas and preserve land for Aboriginal people to maintain their traditional activities. Measuring the growth in protected areas will tell us how well we are meeting our goal for	The baseline year is 1990 - 350,000 hectares were designated as protected when the Protected Areas Initiative began.	Currently 5.8 million hectares or 9.0% of Manitoba is protected – a significant increase since 1990. This includes two national parks, 22 ecological reserves, all or parts of 43 provincial parks and park reserves, all or parts of 50 wildlife management areas, two areas designated under the Forest Act,	Since 1990, the area of protected lands has increased from 350,000 hectares to 5,870,000 hectares, as of March 31, 2010.	

What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)	Why is it important to measure this? (B)	What is the starting point? (base-line data and year) (C)	What is the 09/10 result or most recent available data? (D)	What is the trend over time? (E)	Comments/recent actions/report links (F)
	protected lands that represent the biodiversity in each of Manitoba's natural regions.		and various parcels of conservation agency-owned private land.		
The number and type of forestry co-management agreements in place, projects or developments undertaken by Aboriginal communities or number of contacts with communities or companies.	Provides an indication of the level of economic development opportunities in the forest sector for Aboriginal communities.	The baseline year is 2008/09.	A total of ten timber allocations of 43,925 m^3 of softwood and hardwood to First Nations or Community Councils were provided as Community Awards (9) or Timber Permits (1). A total of 5 tree planting contracts valued at $299.2 awarded to First Nations contractors to plant 1.18 million trees. Forestry Branch in Partnership with Mathias Colomb Cree Nation, INAC, Federal First Nations Forestry Program, acquired digital early imagery for the community's Indian Reserve (IR) areas, (78,000 ha). Community members	Due to the downturn in the forest economy requests for timber allocations are down in 2010. Increasing involvement in all area of forest renewal. Imagery obtained in 2009 will be interpreted producing a new Forest Lands Inventory for IR areas as part of government's contract (2010-11). Potential for additional partnerships in volume sampling and forest modeling. Timber volume	

What is being measured and using what indicator? (A)	Why is it important to measure this? (B)	What is the starting point? (base-line data and year) (C)	What is the 09/10 result or most recent available data? (D)	What is the trend over time? (E)	Comments/recent actions/report links (F)
			from the Mathias Colomb and the Opaskwayak Cree Nations are participating in a $1.6 million community based timber volume sampling program in the Highrock Forest Section.	sampling will continue into 2010/11.	
Hectares of forest burned in the "Red Zone" (priority forested areas) as a percentage of total hectares burned in the province.	Protection of people and property and the surrounding forested areas helps contribute to viable communities in these areas that are primarily in the north.	The baseline year is 2000/01. 0.23% of the highest priority forest protection zone (Red Zone) was burned.	In 2009/10, 0.019% of the highest priority forest protection zone (Red Zone) was burned.	Although this shows a decrease from 2000/01 data, there is no clear directional trend for this measure because risk of forest fire varies widely from year to year, primarily due to weather conditions.	

The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act came into effect in April 2007. This law gives employees a clear process for disclosing concerns about significant and serious matters (wrongdoing) in the Manitoba public service, and strengthens protection from reprisal. The Act builds on protections already in place under other statutes, as well as collective bargaining rights, policies, practices and processes in the Manitoba public service.

Wrongdoing under the Act may be: contravention of federal or provincial legislation; an act of omission that endangers public safety, public health or the environment; gross mismanagement; or, knowingly directing or counseling a person to commit a wrongdoing. The Act is not intended to deal with routine operational or administrative matters.

A disclosure made by an employee in good faith, in accordance with the Act, and with a reasonable belief that wrongdoing has been or is about to be committed is considered to be a disclosure under the Act, whether or not the subject matter constitutes wrongdoing. All disclosures receive careful and thorough review to determine if action is required under the Act, and must be reported in a department's annual report in accordance with Section 18 of the Act.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by Manitoba Conservation and Pineland Forest Nursery for fiscal year 2009/10.

Information Required Annually (per Section 18 of The Act)	**Fiscal Year** 2009/10.
The number of disclosures received and the number acted on and not acted *Subsection 18(2)(a)*	**NIL**
The number of investigations commenced as a result of a disclosure. *Subsection 18(2)(b)*	**NIL**
In the case of an investigation that results in a finding of wrongdoing, a description of the wrongdoing and any recommendations or corrective actions taken in relation to the wrongdoing, or the reasons why no corrective action was taken. *Subsection 18(2)(c)*	**NIL**

Statutory Responsibilities Of The Minister Of Conservation

The Climate Change and Emissions Reductions Act **C.C.S.M. chapter C135**
The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter C 205
The Crown Lands Act, C.C.S.M. chapter C 340
[sections 1 and 5.1, clause 7(1)(c), subsection 7.2(1), section 8, subsections 12(2), 13(1) and (2), 13.1(1), sections 19, 22 and 27 to 29; sections 4, 6 and 6.1, clauses 7(1)(a), (b), (d) and (e), subsections 7(2) to (6), sections 7.1, 10, 14, 16 to 18, 21, subsection 23(3), section 24, subsections 25(1) and (2) and sections 26 and 30 to 35 insofar as they relate to the administration of Crown lands not designated as agricultural Crown lands, including setting fees and rents and issuing work permits but excluding other dispositions]
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter D 12
The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act **C.C.S.M. chapter *E 3***
The Ecological Reserves Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 5
The Endangered Species Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 111
The Environment Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 125
The Forest Act, C.C.S.M. chapter F 150
The Forest Health Protection Act, C.C.S.M chapter F 151
The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter H 15
The International Peace Garden Act, C.C.S.M. chapter I 70
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 30
[except as it relates to water and fisheries]
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 60
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, 1963, C.C.S.M. chapter N 70
The Ozone Depleting Substances Act, C.C.S.M. chapter O 80
The Provincial Parks Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 20
The Plants Pests and Diseases Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 90
[that portion of clause 16(c) that pertains to arborists and clause 16(i)]
The Polar Bear Protection Act, C.C.S.M chapter P 94
The High-Level Radioactive Waste Act, C.C.S.M. chapter R 10
The Resource Tourism Operators Act, C.C.S.M. chapter R 119.5
The Surveys Act, C.C.S.M. chapter S 240
[Part II]
The Sustainable Development Act, C.C.S.M. chapter S 270
The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 40
The Wildfires Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 128
The Wildlife Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 130
[except that portion of clause 89(e) that applies to compensation for damage to crops caused by wildlife as it pertains to big game and migratory waterfowl]
The Wild Rice Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 140
[except subsections 10(1) and 11(1)]

As per Schedule "D", Order in Council No. 350/2009

The Manitoba Natural Resources Development Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 33

As per Schedule "T", Order in Council No. 350/2009

Publications

Parks and Natural Areas

Interpretive Publications

EASTERN REGION

Atikaki Interpretive Park Map
Whiteshell Interpretive Park Map
McGillivray Falls Self-guiding Trail
Whiteshell River Self-guiding Trail
Falcon Creek Self-guiding Trail and Activities
Pine Point Self-guiding Trail
Forester's Footsteps Self-guiding Trail
The Petroforms of Manitoba
Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary
Nopiming Interpretive Park Map
Walking on Ancient Mountains Self-guiding Trail
Fire of 'Eighty-three Self-guiding Trail
Old Pinawa Self-guiding Trail
St. Malo Interpretive Park Map (bilingual)
Tallgrass Parkland Self-guiding Trail (bilingual)
Manitoba Provincial Parks Passport to Adventure
Nature Detective- Children's Activity book
Surviving This Harsh Climate (Stephenfield)

CENTRAL REGION

Birds Hill Interpretive Park Map
Cedar Bog Self-guiding Trail (summer and winter versions)
Nimowin Self-guiding Trail
Pine Ridge Self-guiding Trail
Duff Roblin Provincial Park (bilingual)
Kennedy House (bilingual)
Grand Beach Interpretive Park Map
Ancient Beach Self-guiding Trail
St. Norbert Interpretive Park Map (bilingual)
Hecla/Grindstone Interpretive Park Map
Hecla Village Self-guiding Trail
Grassy Narrows Marsh Hiking and Cycling Trails
Camp Morton Interpretive Park Map
Pembina Valley Interpretive Park Map
Beaudry Interpretive Park Map (bilingual)

WESTERN REGION

Asessippi Interpretive Park Map
Spruce Woods Interpretive Park Map
Isputinaw Self-guiding Trail
Spirit Sands Self-guiding Trail / Devil's Punch bowl Hiking Trail
Turtle Mountain Interpretive Park Map
Wildlife Self-guiding Trail (Turtle Mountain)
Duck Mountain Interpretive Park Map
Shining Stone Self-guiding Trail
Wapiti Self-guiding Trail
Kettle Stones

NORTH-EASTERN REGION

Paint Lake Interpretive Park Map

NORTH-WESTERN REGION

Grass River Interpretive Park Map
Clearwater Lake Interpretive Park Map
Caves Self-guiding Trail

Parks Publications

A Mountain Biking Adventure
Beach Safety (bilingual)
Beach Safety for groups (bilingual)
The Camper's Guide (English and French versions)
Canadian Heritage Rivers System - Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Workshop materials - May 2003
Chitek Lake Park Reserve – Phase 1 public consultation brochure
Duck Mountain Management Plan - Booklet
Fall Camping in Manitoba
Comfort Camping with Yurts and Cabins
Group Use Areas (bilingual)
Hayes River Education Kit - Teachers manual & CDRom
Junior Naturalist and Park Explorer booklets
Manitoba Provincial Parks Guide
Parks Reservation Service
Park Explorer and Junior Naturalist - Children's activity booklets
Regular/Boundary Changes for Provincial Parks – Summary information
Towards a Management Plan for the Hayes River - Summary of workshop comments
Volunteer Campground Host Program
Whiteshell Backcountry Map
Whiteshell Winter Adventures